

## RESILIENCE IN ACTION: SOCIAL POLICIES TO NAVIGATE UNCERTAINTY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

XVI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean  
30-31 October & 1 November 2024

Wyndham Grand Barbados | Bridgetown, Barbados

### Logistics Note

Dear Participants,

Welcome to beautiful Barbados, the island just “Beyond your Imagination”, famed for its amazing beaches. The **XVI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**, co-organized by UNDP, ECLAC, and the Government of Barbados, will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados on 30-31 October and 1 November 2024 at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lords Castle All Inclusive Resort, Belair Road, Long Bay, St. Philip Barbados.

The historic city of Bridgetown is the capital and commercial centre of Barbados and has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Steeped in rich history and culture, Bridgetown today reflects a mix of the old and the new, with historic sites and buildings sitting amongst modern structures like multi-story offices, financial institutions, and shopping malls.

For additional information on Barbados, see [www.visitbarbados.org](http://www.visitbarbados.org), which is the official website of Destination Barbados and the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI). The parish of St. Philip is the largest of the eleven parishes in Barbados and is located at the South-eastern end of the island.

### Thematic Areas and Documentation

The XVI Ministerial Forum will focus on “Resilience in Action: Social Policies to Navigate Uncertainty in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The Forum will delve into strategies to improve the resilience of social policies, ensuring that they are adaptive and responsive to changing needs and crises. It will provide an opportunity for Ministers of Social Development, Environment, Finance, Digital Transformation and other related areas in Latin America and the Caribbean to collectively explore innovative approaches to address inequality, strengthen social safety nets, and promote inclusive economic growth. Emphasizing the importance of sustainability underscores the commitment to achieving lasting positive impacts on human development.

This is a hybrid meeting with in-person and virtual participation. The dialogues during the Forum will be organized around four ministerial roundtables and a series of side events. The programme, the concept notes, and the list of supporting documents, including the thematic notes for the ministerial roundtables, will be made available on the Forum's website. In addition, to ensure the organization of a sustainable event, participants are advised to bring their personal computers or portable devices so that they can electronically access documents and thus avoid printing. The meeting rooms will have Wi-Fi access throughout the event.



## Participants

The Ministers of Social Development, Environment, Finance, Digital Transformation and other related areas in Latin America and the Caribbean are the main audience of the Forum. In addition, experts from UNDP and ECLAC will also attend. Among the high-level attendees will be the Prime Minister of Barbados, Honourable Mia Mottley; UNDP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Michelle Muschett; ECLAC's Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs; as well as other representatives of governments from the region and invited guests.

## Working Languages

The Forum sessions and side events will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation services in Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Official documents will also be available in all four languages.

## Media and Communications

Participants are invited to visit the Forum website for updates on event activities and announcements: [www.undp.org/latin-america/forodesarrollolac](http://www.undp.org/latin-america/forodesarrollolac)

An event app will be available for download by participants to facilitate access to updates and resources during the event.

For general enquiries, please contact: [ForumDevLAC@undp.org](mailto:ForumDevLAC@undp.org)

Media relations and public information will be managed by UNDP jointly with the Government of Barbados. Media Contacts:

- Vanessa Hidalgo – [vanessa.hidalgo@undp.org](mailto:vanessa.hidalgo@undp.org)
- Yajaira Archibald – [yajaira.archibald@undp.org](mailto:yajaira.archibald@undp.org)
- Joy-Ann Gill – [joy-ann.gill@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:joy-ann.gill@barbados.gov.bb)

## Venue of the XVI Ministerial Forum

The event will take place at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lords Castle All Inclusive Resort.

Feel free to peruse the website below to learn more about the hotel: <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham-grand/bridgetown-barbados/wyndham-grand-barbados-resort/overview>

### *Location:*

End of Belair Road, Long Bay, St. Philip, Barbados.

The Wyndham Grand Barbados is located 10 minutes from the Grantley Adams International Airport.

## Entry and Visa Requirements

All visitors to Barbados must have a valid passport and a valid return ticket. All visitors are also required to supply the Immigration Department of Barbados with the name and address of their hotel or place of residence in order to be allowed entry into the island.

Visitors from most countries do not need a visa to enter Barbados. However, participants are advised to contact the Barbados Consulate in your country or liaise with your local Ministry of Foreign Affairs to verify your visa requirement prior to traveling to the island. Additionally, participants can check the link below to determine visa and entry requirements for their respective country.





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for Development in  
Latin America and the Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS  
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What Visa & Entry Requirements Do You Need to Visit Barbados <https://www.visitbarbados.org/plan-your-trip/visa-and-entry-requirements>

For those requiring a visa, the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs will facilitate a Visa Waiver. Kindly indicate this to the UNDP Secretariat along with a copy of your passport bio page.

### *Immigration*

For easy transit through immigration at the Grantley Adams International Airport upon arrival in Barbados, travelers can download the BIM Safe App to complete immigration and customs forms online. The site can be accessed using the following link: [Online Customs & Immigration Portal](https://travelform.gov.bb) (travelform.gov.bb). Should you choose not to complete the online forms, you will need to use the kiosk in the arrival hall.

### *Customs*

After clearing Immigration, participants should then proceed to the Customs area to collect checked luggage. A list of dutiable items can be found at the back of the Barbados Customs Declaration Form.

### *Transportation to Wyndham Grand Barbados*

The Ministry of People Empowerment and Elders Affairs has organized shuttles for all delegates to provide airport transfers. After exiting the Arrivals Hall, ushers with the appropriate conference branding signs will greet and escort delegates to the shuttles. Travel itineraries should be shared with the organizing committee to allow for the necessary arrangements to be made in block time according to the arrival times of the delegates.

Transportation for departing participants will be available until November 2, 2024. Any departures past this date will be the responsibility of the participant.

### *Overnight Flights*

UNDP is not responsible for securing hotel rooms outside of Barbados. Should participants need to overnight while in transit, they will be required to secure their own accommodation at these locations at their own cost.

### *Departure Tax*

All passengers aged two years and older must pay a departure tax of 55 Barbados dollars (USD 27.5). Passengers traveling outside the Caribbean region pay an additional USD 70 per person, and those traveling within the Caribbean pay an additional USD 20 per person.

Most airlines include the cost within the ticket price. Check details with your airline or tour operator.



## Accommodation

Given that all activities of the Forum will take place at the Wyndham Grand Barbados, it is highly recommended that official delegations stay at there.

The Wyndham Grand Barbados Hotel has secured a block of rooms at an all-inclusive rate of USD355 per night. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations using the link below:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/49247?checkInDate=10/27/2024&checkOutDate=04/11/2024&groupCode=103024SOC>

Each delegate will be responsible for any incidental expenses incurred during their stay at the hotel. As is usual with most hotels, upon checking in at the Wyndham Grand, all participants (self-paying and sponsored) will be required to provide their credit card in the event that expenses are incurred for any incidentals. There is no immediate charge if using a credit card. However, if using a debit card or cash, you will be charged USD 50 (or BBD\$ 100) per day. If no charges are incurred during your stay, the debit card will be refunded but this may take a couple of days. If you paid in cash, the refund will be given on departure in Barbadian Dollars.

Should delegates opt to stay at a hotel other than the Wyndham Grand Barbados, please note that all arrangements including transportation to and from the Wyndham Grand Barbados will be the responsibility of the delegates.

## Biosafety Protocols and Other Health Information

At present there are no COVID-19 restrictions for air travel and proof of vaccination is not required for entry into Barbados. Participants transiting through other countries should check that country's COVID-19 vaccination requirement. Vaccination against yellow fever might be required for some travelers; please, ensure that you bring your certificate.

Please ensure that your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas.

Given the tropical climate, mosquito-borne diseases are present, and delegates are requested to take the necessary precautionary measures as appropriate.

## Registration and Accreditation

Kindly be informed that participation in this meeting is by invitation only.

- All registrations for the Member State/Country delegates and UNDP staff should be made through the registration form on the following link by 31 August 2024:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBseBVGKL4j4DDDpdouAFaoBEDe-kk6xdK1u-di3QXkoShwA/viewform>
- Registrations MUST be done, even if you are only attending virtually.
- At the venue, a registration/information desk will be set up to provide logistical and administrative support to participants during the meeting.

## Meals

All meals will be provided during the meeting days.



## Emergency Medical Services

The Ministry of Health and Wellness will provide a medical team on site throughout the conference. If delegates are feeling unwell at any time during the conference, please contact Dr. Walter Alleyne at +1 (246) 836-3536. Calls can be made via the hotel or via WhatsApp.

*Other services can be accessed as follows:*

- Urgent Care Medical Tel: +1 (246) 428-9452.  
Opening Hours: 8:00am-10:00pm
- Sandy Crest Medical Centre, Sunset Crest, St. James, Tel: +1 (246) 419-4911  
Open 24 hrs.
- FMH Emergency Medical Clinic, 3rd Avenue Belleville, St. Michael, Tel: +1 (246) 228-6120 or +1 (246) 228-6121.  
Opening Hours: 8:00am-11:30pm

## Pharmacy

If traveling with prescription medication, please check with the Government of Barbados to ensure the medication is approved for use in Barbados. Always carry your prescription medication in original packaging with your doctor's prescription.

Major pharmacies on the island offer a wide variety of prescription products, toiletries, and over-the-counter products.

Pharmacies include:

- Lewis Drug Mart [www.lewisdrugmart.com](http://www.lewisdrugmart.com), Tel: +1 (246) 435-8090
- Massy Stores Pharmacy at Six Roads, St Philip, [www.massystores.com.bb](http://www.massystores.com.bb), Tel: +1 (246) 43-3700
- Pharmacies that deliver include:
  - o Imart, Tel: +1 (246) 271-3784
  - o Felimar Drug Mart

## Currency

Barbados has its own currency, the Barbados Dollar (BBD). However, as a tourist-friendly destination, most places also accept USD. This is usually accepted at a flat rate of 1 USD = 2 BBD. If you seek to exchange currency through a bank or similar institution, the calculated rate will be slightly higher. This is usually at a rate of 1 USD = 2.02768. Many stores and restaurants also facilitate purchases with VISA and MasterCard credit and debit cards, as an additional spending option but may imply a fee of 3.5 percent.





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### Weather Conditions and Dress Code

Barbados boasts bright sunny days for most of the year. With occasional showers expect mainly warm temperatures averaging around 28°C / 84°F.

While October is typically the rainiest month in Barbados with high humidity, there are rarely full days of rain and there's still an average of 8 hours of sunshine a day! October is also within the Atlantic hurricane season, but appropriate measures will be in place in the unlikely event of a hurricane.

Light clothing is recommended when venturing outside. The meeting at Wyndham will be held in air-conditioned rooms so you may wish to have a blazer/jacket to remain comfortable.

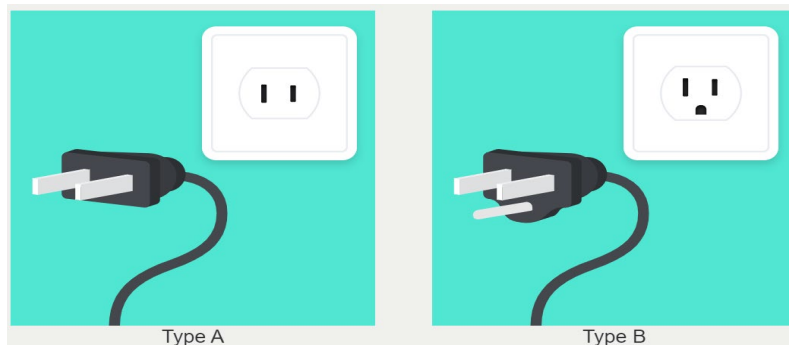
### Code for International Calling

The international dial code for Barbados is +1 246.

### Electricity Specifications

Barbados operates using a 110V supply voltage and 50Hz.

There are two types of plugs used in Barbados: Type A and Type B (see images below). If your device does not conform to these two options, you will need a travel adaptor in order to charge it.



### Complimentary Tours

On Saturday 2 November 2024, the Government of Barbados is offering two complimentary tours for delegates – a choice of a catamaran cruise to swim with turtles and snorkel over a shipwreck, or an island safari tour. Further details will be provided upon registration and delegates will be able to indicate their preference at that time.

