



For Immediate Release

Caribbean civil society calls for an alliance on climate justice and a just transition as part of COVID-19 recovery

Port of Spain, July 2, 2021 – Caribbean civil society has begun to position itself to build a unified, coherent and amplified voice to enhance the effectiveness and impact of calls for climate justice for the most vulnerable, at a “*Virtual Roundtable on a Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance*” on June 11, 2021 that was convened by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Panos Caribbean.

The roundtable brought together key experts, champions and thought leaders working on various aspects of climate justice – economic, environmental and social justice – from civil society organisations, academia, think tanks and other grassroots networks, to discuss a regional alliance to catalyse action, learning and influence policy and practice. This alliance would link up small and disconnected efforts by CSOs and other non-state actors on climate justice and support vulnerable and marginalised groups to advocate for pro-poor, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and climate resilient approaches to COVID-19 economic recovery as part of a just transition in the Caribbean.

CANARI’s Senior Technical Officer and Resilience Lead, Dr. Ainka Granderson, highlighted the importance and value of such an alliance at the roundtable: “Despite a recognition that our governments alone cannot address the triple crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, and global calls for transformation, there is little evidence of a focus on inclusive, green and climate resilient approaches as part of recovery efforts. And those facing the brunt of the impacts from these crises - poor, vulnerable and marginalised communities and local resource users and enterprises - are not being effectively engaged and heard. We need a strong regional grassroots movement to advocate for the changes we want to see and truly transform policy and practice.”

The roundtable was convened under the regional project, “*Amplifying local voices for a just and resilient COVID-19 recovery*”, which is being led by CANARI in collaboration with Panos Caribbean from 2021 to 2022. The project is funded by a grant from the Open Society Foundations (OSF). It aims to enhance the voices of the most vulnerable in calling for a pro-poor, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and climate resilient approach to COVID-19 economic recovery and development in the Caribbean to ensure fair, equitable and just outcomes.

The roundtable marks the beginning of a collaborative and deliberative process to develop a shared understanding around two key issues: what climate justice means for the Caribbean; and how COVID-19 recovery can better support climate resilience and climate justice in the Caribbean. This process will help inform the development and implementation of a collective advocacy agenda on climate justice for the alliance, and support the alliance’s efforts to foster partnerships among civil society organisations, local communities, academia and other non-state actors and inspire grassroots actions through sharing best practices and lessons.

The participants at the roundtable also noted the importance moving forward of holding governments and their development partners accountable for delivery of COVID-19 recovery and other key commitments related to

climate justice and resilience, including under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information on the roundtable and the regional project, visit: <https://canari.org/voices-for-just-resilient-covid-recovery/>

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit institute which has been working across the Caribbean islands for 30 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean. Our work focuses on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Equity and Justice, Participatory Governance, and Resilience. See here for more information: <http://www.canari.org/>

About Panos Caribbean: Panos Caribbean is a regional non-profit organisation that works to amplify the voices of the vulnerable, marginalised and excluded, using the media as an advocacy tool. See here for more information: <https://panoscaribbean.org/>

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