

# *Civil Society Priorities for Climate Justice*

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# The Figures Show...

- ▶ **Indigenous communities face poverty rates two to three times higher than the global average, underscoring the intersection of environmental vulnerability and economic marginalization**
- ▶ **Just 26.8 % of government ministers responsible for policies on environment and climate change are women.**
- ▶ **An estimated 4 out of 5 people displaced by the impacts of climate change are women and girls.**
- ▶ **LGBTQ+ communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to a combination of factors, including poverty, homelessness, and lack of access to resources**



CARIBBEAN FEMINIST  
REDEFINING WORK SERIES

# IMPACT REPORT

20  
24

# The Caribbean Feminist Redefining Work Impact Report

*a report of activities coordinated by the  
Redefining Work team in 2024*



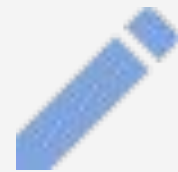
# Key Priorities



**Participatory Policy  
Making**



**Intersectional  
Approaches**



**Policy Reform**



**Resource  
Mobilization**



# The Caribbean We Want:

Civil society recommendations for transformative pathways  
to Caribbean sustainable development

March 2024

## The Caribbean We Want *a comprehensive list of recommendations developed by SIDS civil society*



### Why the SIDS4 conference matters to civil society

It has been 30 years since the first UN International Conference on SIDS, and nearly 10 since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet the Caribbean's progress towards sustainable development has been discouraging. The effects of climate change are accelerating, and its long-term trajectory is increasingly uncertain. Global recessions, natural disasters and COVID have left enormous economic fallout. Inequality has increased as political and economic power and control over resources has become concentrated in the hands of elites and corporations. Opportunities for environmentally sustainable development have diminished as natural resources are misused and degraded through poor development decisions necessitated by the fiscal constraints of Caribbean governments. Obstacles to progress are grounded in both current political and economic realities and the region's incomplete process of decolonisation, which perpetuates power imbalances, distrust of open dialogue and citizen participation, and a devaluation and extractive attitude towards the environment.

Sustainable development is the vision that unites and inspires Caribbean civil society. We look to the SIDS4 conference to bring about a renewed commitment to achieving that vision. **We know the task is too big for governments acting alone or even together. It must be a collective effort, one that we are ready and able to be a part of.** In this paper we highlight four major unmet challenges of the 2030 Agenda and make recommendations for how we can address them together to achieve a green, just, resilient and prosperous future.

### The four challenges

**Bring civil society perspectives into the room.** The expertise, experience and local knowledge of civil society organisations (CSOs) contribute to sustainable development progress in major and often unacknowledged ways. Yet CSO participation in development decisions and initiatives remains mostly a lost opportunity, despite lip service to **whole of society approaches**. The SIDS4 conference, with its tiny and rigidly controlled space for civil society input, provides an illustration of how CSOs are routinely marginalised.

**Transition to an economy that is both green and just.** The dream of a **green economy** that offers environmental sustainability while benefiting local people and communities has fallen by the wayside. The discourse for SIDS has shifted to **blue and ocean-based economies**, and social justice objectives have virtually disappeared. Governments and development partners are doing little to mitigate the corroding effects of the modern capitalist economy on small businesses and communities. These include the political pressure that powerful economic actors exert on development decision-making, the alienation of community resources by private developers, and the takeover of innovative local enterprise models by larger and often external economic actors. Small social and green enterprises cannot gain a foothold in this difficult terrain without special support and protection.

**Leave no one behind.** This "central, transformative promise" of the 2030 Agenda is not being honoured. Governments and development partners have made little effort to understand how intertwined climate, environmental and socio-economic crises disproportionately impact the most vulnerable and marginalised in society, or to take action to reduce those impacts. Resources meant to address the needs of these groups, such as climate finance, fail to reach them, but often benefit others with the political capital and expertise to capture them.