



Global Compact
Network Caribbean

October 2025
EXTERNAL



Caption, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, UN Global Compact ASG & CEO - Sanda Ojiambo, CARICOM Secretary-General - Dr. Carla Barnett, UN Agencies, African and Caribbean regional institutions, UN Global Compact Participants from Africa and Caribbean Networks

REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2025

Sponsored by the UN Global Compact Network Caribbean **Regional Advisory Board**

Prepared by: Kyana Bowen, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Caribbean

Design by: Maria Leguizamon, Graphic Design Consultant



Caption: Prime Minister Mottley greets Ali Matalon, CEO, CorpCare and UN Global Compact Network Caribbean Board Chair

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The Inaugural UN Global Compact Network Caribbean's (Network Caribbean) **Sustainable Development Forum (SDF) 2025** was held on 21st September 2025, as a side event to the Global Africa Business Initiative's 'Unstoppable Africa, 2025' in New York.

The SDF 2025 brought together regional leaders, policymakers, and private sector champions to strengthen collaboration between the Caribbean and the Global South. The high-level discussions emphasized gender-responsive climate strategies, private sector leadership, financial system reform, and actionable partnerships to achieve sustainable development. Key insights included advancing the agenda for equitable global finance, empowering women-led climate resilience, and deepening African–Caribbean trade and governance cooperation.

The desired outcomes of the SDF 2025 were to:

- **Highlight Caribbean leadership and innovation** in building climate resilience, particularly in SIDS.
- **Promote global solidarity** among multilateral financing systems.
- **Demonstrate how resilience** can be achieved by driving growth through sustainability.
- **Provide a roadmap** for Caribbean-African partnerships among global leaders, investors, and the development community.

The Forum was **sponsored** by the UN Global Compact Network *Regional Advisory Board*, including companies such as CorpCare Social Impact Consultants Ltd (Jamaica), CG United Insurance (Barbados), PwC East Caribbean, PwC Jamaica, PwC Trinidad and Tobago, M.D. Medical Consultants Ltd (Trinidad and Tobago); and in-kind sponsorships from Dentons Delany and VISTRA (Barbados). The SDF 2025 Report was designed by Maria Leguizamon, Graphic Design Consultant.



Caption: UN Global Compact ASG and CEO - Sanda Ojiambo, Carnicycle, CorpCare, Dentons, M.D. Medical Consultancy, PwC East Caribbean, UNIPET, CDB's President - Daniel Best, Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, TT Chamber and Network Caribbean's Executive Director

SDF 2025 attracted 70 attendees, which included seven Network Caribbean participating companies, namely **Carenage Holding Bay Ltd., Carnicycle Ltd, CorpCare Social Impact Consultants Ltd, Dentons Delany, M.D. Medical Consulting Ltd, PwC East Caribbean and UNIPET.**

High-level attendees included: -

- Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley – Government of Barbados
- Dr. Carla Barnett – CARICOM Secretary-General
- Dr. Leslie Wade - Permanent Observer for CARICOM to the UN
- Sanda Ojiambo – UN Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) & CEO, UN Global Compact
- Simon Springett - UN Resident Coordinator - Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
- Pamela Coke-Hamilton – Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Tonni Ann Brodber - Head of Secretariat, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)
- Daniel Best – President, Caribbean Development Bank
- Okechukwu Ihejirika – Ag. Chief Operating Officer (Caribbean Office), Afreximbank.

Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley's *High-Level Dialogue* with Ali Matalon, CEO, CorpCare and Board Chair of the Network Caribbean was the event's centerpiece. Key takeaways included the need for practical linkages to enable trade and people movement, investment in digital and satellite infrastructure, and enhanced connections with the CARICOM Single Market (CSME) with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). **Mottley** also called for a redefined mandate of global institutions to move beyond the reconstruction and development narrative as it relates to the protection of climate, biodiversity, food, water, and digital equity. Mottley also highlighted the importance of youth in building resilience.



Caption: Audience at Network Caribbean Sustainable Development Forum 2025

Opening and High-Level Dialogue

Hosted by Rosana John, Attorney at Law, Dentons Delany, Kyana Bowen, Executive Director (ED) of the Network Caribbean established the Forum’s vision by emphasizing the Caribbean Network’s rapid growth: **56 participating companies** across **19 countries** as of September 2025; and the goal to make the Caribbean’s private sector’s contribution to sustainable development scalable, measurable and grounded in partnership.

Sanda Ojiambo, ASG and CEO of the UN Global Compact praised Caribbean’s leadership in sustainability, noting the region’s SME-driven economies are both highly vulnerable and uniquely positioned for climate innovation.

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Theme	Key Insight
Financial Reform	The Bridgetown Initiative redefines fair global finance for developing nations.
African–Caribbean Partnerships	Build tangible infrastructure and trade links across the Global South.
Data & Digital Sovereignty	Control the narrative and digital space to protect cultural and historical truth.
Resilient Mindset	The Caribbean’s next generation must lead with urgency, creativity, and unity.



Caption: Event Host, Network Caribbean ED, Sanda Ojiambo and PM Mottley addressing the Forum

Global South Synergies: A resilient Caribbean

Facilitated by Vashti Guyadeen, CEO, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, there were three guest speakers.

Sarah Hendriks, Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Support Division, **UN Women** highlighted that the climate crisis is a gendered injustice:

- Climate change could push **158 million more women and girls into poverty by 2050**.
- **63 million rural women** across Latin America and the Caribbean are excluded from key environmental governance.

Key recommendations:

- Ensure **women's full participation** in climate governance and adaptation planning.
- Secure dedicated financing for gender-responsive initiatives, especially at the grassroots level.
- Invest in data and qualitative insights on the lived experiences of women and girls.

Martin Ochien'g, Group Managing Director, **Sasini PLC** and former Board Chair of Network Nigeria provided pragmatic insight from Africa's experience with the UN Global Compact:

- Africa's private sector faces a \$300 billion funding deficit for SDG goals.
- In response, the African Business Leaders Coalition was formed, having 75 CEOs funding local SDG initiatives, demonstrating self-reliance over dependency.

Key recommendations:

- **Private sector leadership** is crucial. Caribbean firms should join the Global Compact, collaborate across regions, and measure progress through tangible outcomes.
- **Avoid dependency on the Global North** for funding and solutions.
- Focus on **gender equality, climate action, and local capacity building**.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, **International Trade Centre (ITC)**, emphasized the growing instability of global trade systems and its disproportionate impact on developing economies.

Key recommendations:

- Structural reforms **to shield** Caribbean and African SMEs **from external shocks**.
- **Advance inter-regional trade integration** through the AfCFTA framework.



Caption: Sarah Hendriks, Martin Ochien'g and Pamela Coke-Hamilton presenting at the Forum

Panel Discussion: ‘Partnerships for a Climate-Resilient Caribbean: Bridging Finance, Policy and Innovation’

Theme	Key Insights
SME Empowerment	Strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems through literacy, financing, and innovation hubs.
Climate Finance Innovation	Promote blended finance, debt swaps, and grant facilities tailored to SIDS’ challenges.
Governance & Policy Coherence	Harmonize ESG disclosure and climate policy frameworks regionally.
Innovation & Technology	Build shared digital infrastructure and real-time data systems for decision-making.
Creative Industries as Growth Engines	Invest in cultural exports and creative sectors as vehicles for economic resilience.
Public-Private Collaboration	Foster joint problem-solving frameworks to address investment readiness and innovation gaps.

Panelists included:

- Daniel Best, President, **Caribbean Development Bank**
- Caroline Belgrave, Market Leader, Net Zero and Sustainability Driver, **PwC East Caribbean**
- Racquel Moses, CEO, **Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator**
- Okechukwu Ihejirika Ag. Chief Operating Officer, **Afreximbank (Caribbean Office)**

Moderated by Tonni Ann Brodber, Head of Secretariat, **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**



Strengthen Private Sector Sustainability Capacity

1. Expand SME financial literacy Initiatives through programmes to prepare entrepreneurs for climate finance and impact investing.
2. Create a shared resource hub to help businesses access and structure climate (green and blue) finance instruments.

Advance Regional ESG Alignment

1. Train boards and corporate leaders on sustainability integration and governance.
2. Track and publicly report sustainability progress of major corporations and public agencies to promote transparency.

Enhance Climate and Energy Collaboration

1. Promote and expand a regional climate data alliance to consolidate real-time data on emissions, investments, and adaptation efforts.
2. Partner with regional institutions such as CDB and governments to develop carbon-neutral digital infrastructure (e.g. AI/data centers).

Deepen Africa–Caribbean Trade and Investment Ties

1. Facilitate trade missions, policy dialogues, and cultural exchanges between CARICOM and African markets.
2. Provide technical assistance and advocacy through UN Global Compact (UNGC) Networks to enhance agreements.

Empower Creative and Youth Sectors

1. Support cross-sector partnerships in film, fashion, music, and cultural tech startups.
2. Integrate young innovators into trade and climate resilience dialogues.
3. Offer mentorship programs with African counterparts to foster Pan-African-Caribbean collaboration.

Strengthen Policy Advocacy and Coordination

1. Advocate for unified climate finance and sustainability frameworks across CARICOM.
2. Champion local implementation of SDGs through initiatives such as the *UN Global Compact's SDG Ambition Accelerator* in Caribbean economies to drive measurable private-sector impact.



Caption: Vashti Guyadeen, CEO, TT Chamber and Dominic Summers, Chief Technology Officer presenting at the Forum

The Network Caribbean thanks the sponsors of the SDF 2025.



Caption: CorpCare Team at Forum



Caption: Panel Moderator and Panelists at Forum





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