



ONE CARIBBEAN SOLUTIONS

Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (JA) / 12.00 p.m. (EC)

**Post-Crisis Strategic Partnerships for Sustainable Universities (AUF - UC)
&
UNESCO-IESALC Recommendations for the Reopening of Universities**

Event registration link: <https://forms.gle/wuCU42aKCRPsPQpd8>

The wider Caribbean region faces ongoing institutional subversion from the current global health crisis, from forces that are natural to the region, such as frequent hurricanes and other environmental disasters, as well as from those events that are rooted in a long history of colonialism and its persistent educational legacies. The Higher Education sector is particularly vulnerable in this difficult context as it is considered in many circles as high costs and associated with privilege in communities of scarce resources and the increasing poverty of the social majority.

As the organization of Caribbean universities and research institutes, Universities Caribbean's role is to facilitate the deepening of resilience within its membership in order to promote a more sustainable university system in the region. Resilience speaks to a culture of existential survival with dignity as well as material and infrastructural well-being. Caribbean universities constantly strive to find the appropriate solutions to respond to emerging problems while maximizing opportunities and building new partnerships for their social, intellectual and financial sustainability.

On Wednesday 1st July 2020, Universities Caribbean and the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) will officialize their strategic partnership for the quality improvement of the Caribbean university sector and for better coordinated responses to the issues that are specific to the region. Created 60 years ago and present in 118 countries, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie is one of the largest international agencies of Higher Education and research institutions. AUF promotes cultural and linguistic diversity and acts as a global Francophone Higher Education entity engaging in the economic, social and cultural development of communities.

Executives of Universities Caribbean and AUF have identified common areas of action to foster and promote Caribbean development and integration through joint initiatives, funding strategies, and innovative approaches relating to the wider Caribbean, for the benefit of its peoples and across the diverse cultural and linguistic groups that typify Caribbean societies. In line with Universities Caribbean's "One Caribbean Solutions" previous initiatives, this event will emphasize the importance of new strategic partnerships and collaborative plans of action for a sustainable university sector. This will also be a discussion platform for chancellors, presidents, rectors and directors of Higher Education institutions to get more insight on UNESCO-IESALC's recommendations for the reopening of universities and to share strategies for their next steps forward.