

## **MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN BARBADOS TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS**

COVID 19, with the resulting downturn for Barbados' tourism-dependent economy, creates a difficult challenge for the country. Despite this, Barbados has the intellectual, economic and social capacity as well as the resources to fully achieve the SDGs. The pillars of the SDGs include social, economic and environmental development.

How will Barbados specifically re-commit to these essential concerns? On behalf of civil society, we want to know what progress has been made implementing priorities suggested by the government of Barbados including: national social security and social protection programmes for all Bajans. What specific environmental programs have been enacted regarding addressing climate change and preserving the oceans which contribute to economic progress and to achievement of the SDGs?

Surprisingly, we note that Barbados did not submit a full VNR report to this year's HLPF. Without it, we are unable to assess the commitment of Barbados to using its response to the current health and economic crises as a means to implement the SDGs. Yet, we know that Barbados sets high standards for itself and successfully achieves them. What is the plan to build back better and to leave no one behind from these current crises?