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PRESS RELEASE

SAINT LUCIA SPEAKS ON ACCESS TO VACCINES – THE CARIBBEAN AND THE UNITED STATES



Washington D.C. - At a Virtual Public Forum held on Monday, June 28, 2021, Saint Lucia's Ambassador, H.E. Anton Edmunds along with experts from PAHO and the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, discussed the strategic importance of the United States sending COVID-19 vaccines to the Caribbean. This event also marked the celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month which is observed annually in June.

Ambassador Edmunds highlighted the major impact of COVID-19 on Saint Lucia's and other regional economies, noting inter-alia, that Governments have had to redirect resources to the health sector from education and social initiatives. He cautioned that the lack of access to vaccines and direct engagement by the US, is considered by some to be symptomatic of the relationship between the US and the region. That countries in the region have benefited from engagement and support from others. The session also touched on the need for the strengthening of the policy relationship between Florida and the region, considering the existing trade and economic ties. The roundtable discussion was moderated by Jason Marczak, Director of the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center of

the Atlantic Council. The Center focuses on pressing political, economic and social issues that affect the regions.
The full session can be viewed [here](#)