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ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

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Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

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The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organization's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialisation include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development; while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean also functions as the secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain.

MEMBER COUNTRIES:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

- Anguilla
- Aruba
- British Virgin Islands
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United States Virgin Islands

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THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

I. THE NEED FOR ACTION IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY

Global warming that occurs as a result of the levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere is a naturally occurring phenomenon that is essential for maintaining the balance of nature and for life on earth to prevail. However, the advent of the Industrial Revolution more than 200 years ago brought a new dimension to climate as a result of man's contribution in the pursuit of industrial activities.

It is proposed that such activities have resulted in increases in GHG concentrations that are intensifying the greenhouse effect thereby magnifying global warming and causing temperatures on earth to reach higher than normal levels. However, it is also apparent that in predicting the future, there is a key element of uncertainty that may sometimes complicate climate forecasting and therefore the foreseen impacts.

In addressing the challenge of changing climate three approaches have been identified¹:

- Wait and see and do nothing for now as there is too much uncertainty – in other words do Business as Usual (BAU).
- The costs of inaction in the face of uncertainty are too high.
- Adopting the precautionary approach in the face of uncertainty².

II. CLIMATE CHANGE - ECONOMIC LOSSES

Mountainous regions at risk

Global warming is likely to cause glaciers to melt in some parts of the world, thereby increasing the risk of glacier lakes overflowing thereby creating floods, landslides and avalanches and increasing the vulnerability of communities living in such areas.

Increased risk of drought in dry regions and effects on crop production, food prices and poverty

The Caribbean Region is expected to experience higher temperatures and lower precipitation with Cuba, the Bahamas and Hispaniola becoming drier³. Drier seasons that impact negatively on crop production will drive up food prices worldwide and this would be exacerbated especially if production in countries that control a large share of the world food production, is affected.

Rising sea-levels

The IPCC has estimated a sea level rise between 0.18 and 0.6 m in the next century and this is likely to contribute to flooding and destruction of coastal areas inclusive of seagrass beds and mangroves as well as increasing the vulnerability of coastal and fishing communities.

Inequalities in water supply and water availability may deepen

The IPCC projects that water availability is likely to increase by 10-40% at high altitudes and decrease by 10-30% in some dry regions such as the Middle East, southern Africa and Australia inclusive of areas that are already water-stressed. In dry areas where rainfall may become even scarcer, the water crisis will deepen with the possibility of increased conflict as countries and communities

compete for water. Agriculture will be affected with consequent food shortages and further increases in food prices.

Increased incidence of costly disasters and implications for the insurance industry.

The increased probability and actual occurrence of large-scale disasters may well endanger the viability of insurance companies as increased claims on most forms of insurance (property, liability, health and life), may need to be met. The insurance industry is encouraging stakeholders to invest more in risk reduction and disaster prevention. In the Caribbean, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)⁴ which is a regional facility has been implemented in order to provide compensation for disaster losses.

Impact on health and spread of diseases

Climatic factors impact on various vector-borne diseases, many enteric illnesses and some water-related diseases. There will be positive effects from climate change on health such as a reduction in the seasonal winter-time peak in deaths in temperate countries due to influenza as a result of milder winters. In its 2002 report, the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2002) estimated that climate change was responsible in 2000 for 2.4% of diarrhoea cases and 6% of malaria worldwide.

The special case of small islands

The 51 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including 12 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), may be among the most affected by the threat of climate change despite the fact that they contribute less than 1% to GHG emissions. Increases in ocean surface temperatures around SIDS have already ►

¹ See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/climate/evidence/sceptics.shtml> for the arguments put forward by climate change skeptics.

² "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation".

³ Taylor, M. A., A. Centella, J. Charlery, I. Borrajerro, A. Bezanilla, J. Campbell, R. Rivero, T. S. Stephenson, F. Whyte, R. Watson. 2007. Glimpses of the future. A Briefing from the PRECIS Caribbean Climate Project, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belmopan, Belize. 24pp

⁴ <http://www.ccrif.org/>

been reported and are projected to rise causing increased precipitation and heavy rainfall, sea level rise, destruction of seagrass beds and mangroves, bleaching of corals, saline intrusion that is harmful to agricultural lands and deadlier cyclones/hurricanes.

III. CLIMATE CHANGE - ECONOMIC GAINS

Despite the documented challenges associated with climate change, the picture is not all negative as there is potential for opportunities in the following sectors:

Investment and reform

Climate change is likely to generate incentives for substantial investment in clean technologies, in more resilient infrastructure and in disaster prevention and mitigation facilities as well as incentives for innovation in several sectors ranging from industry to agriculture and biotechnology. Of importance here is to ensure that such opportunities do not only benefit the private sector but also the wider stakeholder community.

Agriculture and tourism

Climate change will alter patterns of comparative advantage in the production of several goods and services due to changes in climatic conditions and due to variations in the magnitude and distribution of global warming across regions. Regions closer to the Poles may benefit from cooler climates that are attractive to tourists. Projected winners here are Aruba (42 %) and Jamaica (-30 %)⁵ (Morin, 2006).

Savings/increases in energy consumption

Climate change is likely to be accompanied by changes in the pattern of energy demand worldwide. Caribbean countries may experience an increase in energy demand due to warmer summers (Taylor et al., 2007).

The emergence of “green” economies

An industry segment likely to prosper as a result of the climate change debate is what can be referred to as “green” industries such as biofuels, hydro, solar, wind and geothermal power companies and their suppliers. These businesses are likely to benefit from increased policy support from governments and from increased consumer awareness about the need to promote sustainable practices as well as the creation of new job opportunities.

IV. THE CARIBBEAN SITUATION

Like other regions, the Caribbean will be impacted by climate change both in terms of economic gains and economic losses.

Economic losses are likely to accrue mainly in the costs imposed by stronger hurricanes and from disruptions to agriculture and tourism⁶. However, there is a need to formulate national adaptation and mitigation plans in non-CARICOM countries in the Caribbean region especially the Dutch-speaking Caribbean and Haiti, as well as increasing implementation in countries where such plans already exist. These initiatives have been addressed under the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC), Adapting to Climate Change (ACC) and the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) activities⁷.

Given that in a post-2012 Kyoto Protocol world, developing countries may be expected to contribute to reductions of GHG emissions, the Caribbean will need to focus both on mitigation and adaptation policies. Mitigation should focus on transitioning Caribbean countries to low-carbon based economies structured on well-defined national energy policies. The promotion of energy-efficiency and use of alternatives to fossil fuels need to become regional and national priorities. Public policy should be aimed at:

- supporting the development and use of renewable sources of energy

in the energy sector;

- supporting the development of public transport systems to promote energy savings;
- mandating energy efficiency requirements in various industries such as the car industry;
- supporting research and innovation in energy-efficient technologies;
- providing incentives for the transfer and adaptation of clean technology from developed countries to the Caribbean;
- introducing incentives to the population to switch to energy savings habits;
- facilitating the conduct of energy audits in various industries.

There is a need to promote integration of disaster preparedness, disaster prevention and risk reduction in existing national and regional programmes. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has a key role to play here in facilitating the adaptive response of the region to climate-change related disasters.

Economic opportunities may arise for the region if the right economic and environmental policies are put in place. In the context of the Caribbean, new “green” sectors such as organic agriculture, biotechnology, carbon neutral tourism and renewable energy should be identified for development through foreign direct investment, if needed. The region could also seize the opportunity offered by climate change to start the building of “green” national economies. Barbados has already taken the lead in that respect. It has identified the building of a green economy as one of its five main development pillars over the next 20 years. Regional initiatives in sustainable development need to be fostered.

⁵ Morin, R. 2006. The Surprising Impact of Global Warming on Tourism. Pew Research Centre Publications.

⁶ According to a study by the Stockholm Environment Institute at Tufts University released in 2008, the costs to the Caribbean region for failing to take actions on climate change could amount to losses of 5% of the region’s 2004 GDP by 2025 and 10% by 2050. These calculations are based on three types of effects: damages from hurricanes; losses from tourism and damages from infrastructure. The costs of inaction calculated as a percentage of 2004 national GDP by 2025 were between 10-15% for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines; between 15-20% for Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis and Turks and Caicos and above 20% for Grenada and Haiti.

⁷ <http://www.caricom.org/jsp/projects/macc%20project/cpacc.jsp>



V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Climate change requires an adjustment to the way that business is done and in this context, the following recommendations are made:

At the national level

- 1 Countries would need to embark on macroplanning that would ensure in the years ahead that their economies would be “climate-proofed”.**

This requires the implementation of initiatives to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes into national strategic development planning and budgetary frameworks; policymakers would need to offer incentives to stakeholders in obtaining support for climate-friendly technologies. These may take the form of subsidies on equipment and tax incentives;

- 2 The pursuit of sustainable programs will, on the part of all stakeholders need to be apparent and not only on a short term basis, but on a sustained basis so as to ensure that this forms part of national thinking that would be passed on to future generations;**

- 1 The movement towards energy efficiency and alternative energy should be pursued in a participatory manner involving especially civil society as this would encourage and support ownership of the decision-making process and therefore support for it;**

- 3 There is considerable evidence that the new wave of alternative energy will open tremendous economic opportunities for investors, and the Caribbean stands to gain considerably by a proactive approach to developing alternative energy policies and strategies;**

- 4 Caribbean countries would need to come to terms with the fact that even if they are not high emitters of GHG they are indeed negatively impacted by the climatic changes that facilitate such emissions, and that national action still needs to be taken in support of global initiatives;**

- 5 In parallel with adaptation strategies, greater focus on mitigation by Caribbean economies should be promoted. Promotion of energy efficient technologies should also be a large part of any adaptive and mitigative strategy. Research into the use of biofuels should continue, and the links with biotechnology need to be made in support of crops and livestock that are tolerant of changing climatic conditions;**

- 6 In light of the commonality of the problems of climate change a regional approach in collaboration with extra regional, like-minded parties, should be pursued to allow the Caribbean to operate at the frontier of knowledge in identifying and developing possible mitigating strategies. The costs and benefits of various strategies must be carefully evaluated in a risk management framework which would allow for transparency and the best possible outcomes;**

- 7 Businesses will need to adjust their processes in response to climate change so as to create opportunities for investment in “green” and efficient technologies.**

At the international level

- 8 The international donor community will need to integrate support for climate change actions into their aid assistance packages and determine how climate change will affect aid effectiveness;**
- 9 Developed countries would need to support the flexibility mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and work in conjunction with developing countries in the drafting of the post-2012 Protocol that would reflect the economic, social and environmental interests of developing countries;**
- 10 Climate change will also require an adjustment in how success and progress are measured and how economic welfare is valued;**
- 11 So far, economic and business models have emphasized the pursuit of pecuniary profits and the pursuit of economic growth. This means that traditional economic thinking, model building and forecasting will need to incorporate the risks and effects of climate in a genuine way and not as an appendage to their existing results.**

Climate change requires a shift to a development paradigm that values not only economic growth and the augmentation of financial assets but also one that values environmental assets that cannot be transacted through markets. The use of “green” national accounting methods needs to be encouraged. Economists need to integrate environmental considerations in their welfare maximization calculus and optimal decision-making. Sustainable development models need to replace economic growth models. The world, as a whole, needs to start paying attention to sustainable development indicators in addition to conventional economic and financial indicators. To successfully combat climate change, a departure from BAU approaches is needed in analysis and policy-making in all major economic spheres. ■

CLIMATE SCENARIOS



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was jointly established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change.

Since its inception, the IPCC has produced a series of comprehensive Assessment Reports on the state of understanding of causes of climate change, its potential impacts and options for response strategies. It also prepared Special Reports, Technical Papers, methodologies and guidelines. These IPCC publications have become standard works of reference, widely used by policymakers, scientists and other experts. In 1992 the IPCC released emission scenarios to be used for driving global circulation models to develop climate change scenarios. The so-called IS92 scenarios were pathbreaking. They were the first global scenarios to provide estimates for the full suite of greenhouse gases. Much has changed since then in our understanding of possible future greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Therefore the IPCC decided in 1996 to develop a new set of emissions scenarios which will provide input to the IPCC Third Assessment Report but can be of broader use than the IS92 scenarios. The new scenarios provide also input for evaluating climatic and environmental consequences of future greenhouse gas emissions and for assessing alternative mitigation and adaptation strategies. They include improved emission baselines and latest information on economic restructuring throughout the world, an examination of different rates and trends in technological change, and expansion of the range of different economic development pathways, including

narrowing of the income gap between developed and developing countries. To achieve this, a new approach was adopted to take into account a wide range of scientific perspectives, and interactions between regions and sectors.

At the recent meeting of the CDCC the following IPCC storylines were presented in support of the presentation on climate change.

A1 Storyline and Scenario Family

Drawing on representation in recent literature the A1 Storyline is a case of rapid and successful economic development with convergence of regional average income per capita, where the distinction between poor and rich regions dissolves; and there is:

- Strong commitment to market-based solutions
- High savings and commitment to education at the household level
- High rates of investment and innovation in education, technology and institutions
- International mobility of people, ideas and technology

Transition to economic convergence arises from advances in transport and communication technology, shifts in national immigration and education policies, and international cooperation in development of institutions that enhance productivity, growth and technology diffusion.

In the A1 scenario, demographic and economic trends are closely linked as affluence is related to low mortality and fertility. Global population grows to 9 billion by 2050 and falls to 7 billion by 2100. As mean age increases, retirees' needs are met through accumulated savings in private pensions. The global economy expands at an average annual rate of 3% to 2100, reaching US\$550 trillion (all dollar values expressed in 1990 dollars), and global average income per capita increases to US\$21,000 by

2050. While high average income per capita improves social well-being, this world is not without problems which include increasing social exclusion and increased pressure on the global commons. Energy and mineral resources are abundant, and final energy intensity (energy use per unit of GDP) decreases at an average annual rate of 1.3%. Environmental amenities are valued and rapid technological progress "frees" natural resources currently devoted to human needs for other purposes. The concept of "environmental quality" shifts from emphasis on "conservation" to active "management" of environmental services. With rapid increase in income, diets shift from an initial increase in meat and dairy consumption to a subsequent decrease due to a focus on the health of an aging society. High incomes translate to high car ownership, sprawling suburbia and dense transport networks. Some A1 scenario groups reflect uncertainty in the development of energy sources and conversion technologies. One group evolved along the carbon-intensive energy path, another group intensifies the dependence on oil and natural-gas resources, a third envisages a stronger shift to renewable energy sources, and a fourth one assumes a balanced mix of technologies and supply sources. The implications of the alternative development paths for future green house gas emissions (GHG) are challenging.

A2 Storyline and Scenario Family

The A2 scenario represents a differentiated world "consolidated" into economic regions with lower trade flows, slow capital stock turnover, slower technological change, self-reliance and less economic, social and cultural interactions among regions. Economic growth is uneven and the income gap between the now-industrialized and developing world does not narrow.

With emphasis on family and community life, fertility rates decline slowly, making

the A2 population the largest among the storylines (15 billion by 2100). Unlike the A1 and B1 worlds, the A2 has less international cooperation and less mobility of people, ideas and capital so technology diffuses more slowly. International disparities in productivity and income per capita are maintained or increased in the A2 world, and global average per capita income is low, reaching US\$7200 per capita by 2050 and US\$16,000 in 2100. Global GDP reaches US\$250 trillion by 2100. Technological change is more heterogeneous than in A1, driven by local resources, culture, and education. Regions with abundant energy and mineral resources evolve more resource-intensive economies, and those poor in resources minimize import-dependence through technological innovation. The fuel mix depends on resource availability, with high-income resource-poor regions shifting to advanced post-fossil technologies, and low-income resource-rich regions using older fossil technologies. Final energy intensities decline by 0.5 to 0.7% per year. In the A2 world, socio-political structures diversify; some regions move to stronger welfare systems with reduced income inequality, others move to “leaner” governments with more heterogeneous income distributions. With substantial food requirements, agricultural productivity focuses on innovation, research, development, deployment and environmental efforts. Soil erosion and water pollution are reduced by local initiatives, but attention to local and regional environmental damage is not uniform, and global environmental concerns are relatively weak.

B1 Storyline and Scenario Family

The central theme of the B1 future is a high level of environmental and social consciousness, and a globally coherent approach to sustainable development. Other characteristics are: increased attention paid to social and environmental aspects of development, importance of technological change, and absence of climate policies.

Economic development in B1 is balanced, and efforts to achieve equitable income distribution are effective. As in A1, the B1 storyline describes a fast-changing and convergent world. While the A1 world invests

its increased productivity and know-how gains in economic growth, the B1 invests its gains in improved efficiency of resource use (“dematerialization”), equity, social institutions and environmental protection. While a strong welfare net prevents social exclusion, massive income redistribution and high taxation may adversely affect the economic efficiency and functioning of world markets. Incentives and advances in international institutions allow rapid diffusion of cleaner technology. To this end, research and development (R&D), education and capacity building are enhanced for clean and equitable development. Technical and organizational changes yield material and energy savings, pollution reduction, and increase in labor productivity.

Transition to low mortality and fertility occurs at the same rate as A1, but motivated partly by social and environmental concerns. Global population grows to 9 billion by 2050 and falls to 7 billion by 2100. B1 has high economic activity (global GDP of US\$350 trillion by 2100), and significant progress toward income equality. Global income per capita in 2050 averages US\$13,000, lower than A1. More of the income is spent on services rather than material goods, and quality rather than quantity, as there is less focus on material goods, and resource prices are increased by environmental taxation.

In this scenario a smooth transition to alternative energy occurs as oil and gas resources decline. The major thrust is toward post-fossil technologies, driven by environmental concerns. Given the high environmental consciousness and institutional effectiveness, environmental quality is high as anticipated negative impacts of rapid development are effectively handled. In this world, cities are compact with public non-motorized transport, and suburban development is tightly controlled. Incentives for low-input, low-impact agriculture and maintenance of large wilderness areas, contribute to high food prices with lower meat consumption than in A1. These proactive environmental measures and policies lead to low GHG emissions, even in the absence of explicit interventions to mitigate climate change.

B2 Storyline and Scenario Family

The B2 world is characterized by increased concern for environmental

and social sustainability. Government policies and business strategies are influenced by environmentally-aware citizens. International institutions decline in importance, with a shift to local and regional decision-making structures. Human welfare, equality and environmental protection are high priorities.

Education and welfare programs are pursued, reducing mortality and fertility. The population is 10 billion by 2100, income per capita grows to US\$12,000 by 2050, and by 2100 the global economy expands to US\$250 trillion. International income inequality decreases and local inequality is reduced by strong community networks. High education levels support development and environmental protection. While the environment is one of the common priorities, strategies to address global environmental challenges are not, thus limiting the chances of success in comparison with local and regional environmental strategies. Moreover, governments have difficulty creating and implementing agreements with global environmental protection.

Technological frontiers are pushed less than in A1 and B1, and innovations are regionally more heterogeneous. Globally, investment in energy R&D continues to decline and mechanisms for international diffusion of technology or know-how are weaker than A1 and B1, but higher than A2. Regions with rapid economic development but limited natural resources focus on technology development and bilateral cooperation. The energy intensity of GDP declines at 1% per year. Urban and transport infrastructure supports low car dependence and less urban sprawl. Land-use management is better integrated, and self-reliance shifts the diet to local produce and low meat consumption. Energy systems differ regionally, and the need for more efficient use of energy and resources drives the development of less carbon-intensive technology. Regional environmental policy cooperation improves management of trans-boundary issues and regional cooperation can lower emissions of ozone-depleting gases. Globally the energy system remains hydrocarbon-based to 2100, but with a gradual transition and corresponding reduction in carbon intensity. ■

14TH MEETING OF THE CDCC MONITORING COMMITTEE



The Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its fourteenth meeting on 8 September 2009 at the ECLAC Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Margaret King-Rousseau, Director, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as current Chair of CDCC.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands as Associate Member. The Cayman Islands attended in an observer capacity. Several organizations of the United Nations system attended the meeting, namely, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). The Association of Caribbean States (ACS); Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and Organization of American States (OAS) participated in the meeting as regional intergovernmental bodies.

The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as at August 2009, as well as preparations for the implementation of the 2010-2011 programme of work as approved by the Thirty-second Session of ECLAC.

Presentations were made by ECLAC staff on ongoing work being carried out with respect to:

- (a) Cooperation towards the achievement of the MDGs;
- (b) The impact of the global financial crisis on middle-income Caribbean countries;
- (c) Disaster risk reduction and impact assessments; and
- (d) Review of the Economics of Climate Change.

As well, the meeting reviewed and commented on a Matrix for Implementation of the decisions of the twenty second ministerial meeting of the CDCC, on the role of CDCC in Caribbean regional development. The next meeting of CDCC, which will be held at a ministerial level, will precede the thirty-third Period of Session of ECLAC and was tentatively agreed to take place in the last week of February, or first week of March 2010.

Second meeting of the TAC of the RCM

The second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (TAC/RCM) took place on Monday 7 September 2009.

The meeting reviewed and endorsed the proposed work programme of the RCM for the period 2010-2011 and preparations for the review of the Mauritius Strategy which will take place at the 65th session of the General Assembly in September 2010.

In relation to the RCM 2010-2011 work programme, the meeting recommended that the RCM should take ownership of the “CARICOM

Matrix” which should be renamed the Regional Implementation Matrix. The Matrix should be reviewed, updated and incorporated into the work programme of the RCM. Pertaining to preparations for the MSI Review in 2010, the meeting recommended that an updated list of focal points should be made available and that a benchmarking tool should be put in place to compare performance across member States. It was also suggested that in the light of the significant work which was being undertaken by the ECLAC CDCC Secretariat in a number of the critical areas identified by the MSI, such work should be highlighted in the report of the TAC. The meeting agreed to the creation of a working group to provide support to the RCM process, comprising the institutional bodies that sit on the TAC (CARICOM, OECS, ECLAC and UNEP). The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) offered its assistance to strengthen the collaborative process, presenting as an example the collaboration achieved through the Caribbean Sea Commission.

The finalization of reports for submission to the General Assembly review process will be carried out in three phases, the first of which concerns preparation by the end of November 2009, of an institutional report on support to the implementation of the MSI. In the second phase, SIDS Governments are expected to complete and submit reports on progress in implementation of the MSI at the national level. Those reports will be discussed at a Caribbean regional preparatory meeting scheduled to take place in March 2010. The third and final phase of reporting encompasses the preparation of a Caribbean regional synthesis report. ■

KEY CHALLENGES TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES – SOME RESPONSES



INTRODUCTION

All English and Dutch speaking countries of the Caribbean have a national statistical organization as a major department of their government. Additionally, in many of these countries smaller statistical units co-exist with this central body. These smaller units have been developed mainly in the social sector in areas such as Education, Health and the Vital Registry. The size and capacity of the central statistical organization of these governments vary from country to country.

For example, Jamaica has the largest staff complement of over 300 staff members, whereas a country like Anguilla has only 6 staff members. Despite the varying sizes and existing capacities all countries of the subregion are committed to responding to a common set of statistical demands. These demands have posed serious challenges especially to the smaller departments of the subregion. This is mainly due to the lack of adequate human resources to properly manage the implementation of strategies to achieve goals set by the common statistical demands. Another crucial setback is the low level of skills that exist in these national departments of statistics, coupled with the high turnover of staff. This paper will explore some of the key challenges and critically review some of the responses thus far to the prevailing problems.

Human Resource Constraints
Without any doubt, the most important pillar of any statistical organization is the number and caliber of its human resources.

It is impossible to adequately address the increased demands for data placed
















on these organizations in the absence of a minimum staff size with a minimum set of required skills. Recently, the subregional headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean conducted a survey of the infrastructure of statistical organizations in the subregion. In terms of their human resources, the survey data reveal some worrying results. As highlighted above, the key statistical organizations reported staff complements which vary in sizes from above 300 persons in the case of Jamaica to under 10 persons in the case of Anguilla. Currently, statistical organizations of the subregion are under pressure to produce accurate and timely data of a broad scope. These include statistics in traditional areas such as Merchandise Trade Statistics, Consumer Prices, National Accounts statistics, Population estimates, among others, as well as more modern demands set by the need to monitor the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and more recently the CMDGs (Caribbean Millennium Development Goals). Many of these areas involve the production of detailed indicators some of which can only be obtained from special household surveys. To require the active response of small statistical organizations in the pursuit of these goals may surely be asking for too much. This is directly supported by the survey results. Among other things, these show that almost every country would welcome a larger staff to meet their mandates. The Turks and Caicos Islands, for example, would require an increase of 113% over its current size of 8 staff members; St. Kitts and Nevis forecasts the need for an increase of 62% over its current size of 13 staff members, the Bahamas 42% more than the current 109 and Barbados forecasts the need for 35% more than its present complement of 72 staff members. The only two countries that appear from these data to be satisfied with their current staff size are Bermuda and Suriname. See table 1 for more details.

However, shortage of personnel in the statistical organizations is not the only concern. Of equal importance is the level of skill of the existing staff. This situation is perhaps even more worrying since it can be argued that the output of a small but highly skilled staff can far outweigh that of a larger staff without adequate training. In this connection, the survey data reveal that of the available staff, in eight of the countries studied, less than 50% have subject matter training. Belize has the lowest percentage here with only 15% of its staff having subject matter training. The other seven countries are Barbados (25%), Suriname (30%), St. Kitts and Nevis (38%), the British Virgin Islands (39%), Guyana (45%), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (46%) and St. Lucia (49%). These data also show that in Jamaica, the most advanced statistical nation in the Caribbean, 98% of its staff have subject matter training.

Two phenomena are of significance here. First, the perennial problem of the unavailability of trained personnel in the entire subregion. Second, the high personnel turnover: Anecdotal evidence suggests that many persons enter statistical offices not for the love of the subject but more as a means of “getting a job” and starting to earn an income.

Hence, seeking a career in the field of statistics is often beyond the imagination of the newly recruited. She/He may keep the job in the statistical environment for a while. As a consequence she/he may even be fortunate to accrue some very useful “on the job” training. However, with this limited experience, she/he becomes more marketable. This often implies that soon thereafter, she/he will commence the search for “better” opportunities outside the statistical environment. As soon as an opportunity surfaces, this staff member’s exit from ►

Table I

																Total
	AB	BS	BB	BZ	BM	BVI	CAY	DOM	GY	LC	KN	SVG	SR	TCI	UVI	
DEGREE	8	9	9	5	0	4	2	2	3	5	4	0	0	3	3	116
Degree with Subject Matter Training	8	9	9	5	0	4	2	2	3	5	3	0	0	3	3	57
Degree without Subject Matter Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	1
NON DEGREE	0	37	16	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	4	4	0	6	0	74
No Degree with Subject Matter Training	0	32	16	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	0	6	0	61
No Degree without Subject Matter Training	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	11
Increase	8	46	25	5	0	4	2	3	7	5	8	4	0	9	3	129
Current Staff	33	109	72	33	27	23	24	15	29	49	13	24	103	8	11	926
% Increase	24%	42%	35%	15%	0%	17%	8%	20%	24%	10%	62%	17%	0%	113%	27%	14%

NOTE: AI = ANGULLA; ANT = ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; AB = ARUBA; BS = THE BAHAMAS; BB = BARBADOS; BZ = BELIZE; BM = BERMUDA; BVI = BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS; CAY = CAYMAN ISLANDS; DOM = DOMINICA; GD = GRENADA; GY = GUYANA; JM = JAMAICA; NA = NETHERLANDS ANTILLES; LC = ST. LUCIA; KN = ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; SVG = ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES; SR = SURINAME; TT = TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO; TCI = TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; UVI = UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

the statistical setting is certain. This is a pattern in most of the national statistical organizations of the subregion.

To date no viable solution has been found to address these very serious problems. Agencies such as CARICOM and ECLAC have been trying to bridge the training gaps through their many regional workshops. As laudable as these efforts may be, the permanent and long term impact of such activities are questionable. In addition, the very staff members who are sent to these workshops may be the ones who exit the system first. When this happens, the statistical organization recedes to square one. With respect to the problem of a high staff turnover, suggestions ranging from increased compensation packages to 'bonding', especially after longer term training was undertaken have been suggested as solutions and a few countries

have tried them. However, 'bonding' can only be temporary since we all live in democratic societies. Increased compensation does help to some extent but government wages can never compete with those of the private sector or even with wages paid in parastatal organizations. Hence, even though for all statistical agencies training of their staff is of paramount importance, retaining these trained personnel continues to be a serious challenge.

A very positive solution to this problem is the idea of establishing a regional training institution which trains government statisticians at all levels on a continuous basis. Such an institution could service the entire subregion. This would mean that staff members can leave the statistical environment as they please. This would cause little or no effect on the work programme

of the affected agency since a supply of new recruits with appropriate training will always be there. Unfortunately, the educational institutions of the subregion have been very disappointing in this respect. No university in the subregion can claim that they are producing trained personnel who, on leaving university, can enter the work environment of statistical organizations of the Caribbean and immediately start producing. The universities have said before that this is not part of their role. This of course is debatable. However, even if they are correct, it can be cogently argued that we have reached a stage in the Caribbean, in statistical development where a Training Institute for statistical personnel is urgently needed. Instead of trying to solve the perennial problems associated with the lack of data using "half baked" solutions, these problems should be addressed by solutions which have a more

permanent impact. Key regional agencies such as CARICOM and ECLAC, as well as their funding partners involved in statistical development of the Caribbean are strongly encouraged to urgently engage serious thoughts and discussion on the topic of establishing a Caribbean Statistical Training Institute for the subregion.

Limited Financial Support for Other Activities

Another serious challenge faced by statistical departments of countries of the Caribbean is the limited financial support they get each year from their government to carry out their mandate.

Household surveys remain a powerful source of data to meet the mandate of most statistical organizations. However, most organizations do not even have a surveys budget allocation as part of their annual budget. As a consequence, it is not surprising to realize that only eight countries of the subregion can conduct Labour Force surveys with any regularity. Labour Force surveys are considered to be the least expensive surveys to conduct, yet more than half of the countries of the subregion cannot afford to conduct them at all. It can be argued that any viable national statistical organization should at least have the capacity and the financial support to conduct such surveys on a regular basis since they provide key data for important policy decisions connected with the labour market. Regrettably, countries without the financial support to conduct enquiries that will update their databases on a regular basis are in no position to produce either timely or reliable information which is the key mandate of all statistical organizations.

The resolution endorsing the Regional Statistical Programme adopted in 2005 by the Member States of CARICOM may now be outdated. However, this resolution echoes some hope for an increase in investment in statistics in the Caribbean. Sadly, not much increased investment can be reported from the survey done in 2009. The continued poor funding of statistical organizations in the subregion is certainly contrary to the spirit of the resolution and it may be timely to remind the governments of

their commitment to this resolution. The 2009 infrastructure survey does show however, that most statistical organizations are fully equipped with generous supplies of desktop computers and access to the internet. Nine of the eleven countries who responded to this question had ratios of computers to staff of 1 or more. Interestingly however, is that four of these countries reported wanting an increase in computers of between 18% to 48%. In terms of internet connections only one country reported having no internet connection. Another country reported having only one connection. Most have a generous supply of internet connections. One country reported having 100 connections and another 70. With the prevalence of the use of WIFI these numbers could be misleading since several laptop computers, for example, could be connected to a single wireless device. A conclusion that is certain however, is that most statistical organizations do have a generous supply of both computers and internet connections. This is a marked improvement from the situation in 2005. What is not certain from the survey however, is to what extent this improvement is due to government investment.

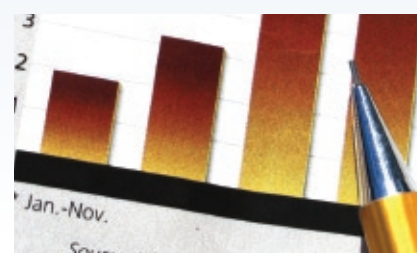
Other Challenges

The above may be the key challenges facing statistical organizations of the subregion currently. However, these are certainly not the only ones. Three other challenges of significance are summarized below:

- Enhancing the statistical culture of the subregion remains an enigma. Achieving this change is a key to the success of statistical development. Each statistical organization together with regional agencies must collaborate closely in order to achieve this goal. The recent high level advocacy forum for statistics was a step in this direction. It will require much more advocacy at the national and regional levels to alter this culture.
- Governments will have to accept the fact that the chief responsibility

for the development of their statistical organizations lies with the governments themselves. Development agencies can assist but cannot replace the governments in this respect.

- The process of building a statistical organization requires considerable patience. It will not happen overnight. It is a long and arduous process that requires dedication, consistency and constancy on the part of all - the staff, the government and development agencies.



Conclusion

There is no doubt that the Caribbean subregion falls in the "average" category with respect to the availability of reliable and timely data of a broad scope. Several factors have contributed to this status.

At the top of the list is the scarcity of adequately trained human resources. This problem must be addressed more rigorously and directly rather than in the piecemeal fashion that is being done currently. Governments of the subregion must accept the fact that they are ultimately and primarily responsible for the development of a viable national statistical organization and as a consequence invest more tangibly in statistical development. This is urgently needed since the process of building a good statistical organization does not happen overnight. Regional agencies are also called upon to collaborate more in funding activities that can maximally enhance the development process. It is suggested that together, these agencies examine their current focus to determine the activities that can have the greatest impact in accelerating the development of the national statistical organizations. ■

THE GLOBAL CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE OECS COUNTRIES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS



INTRODUCTION

The current global financial and economic crisis that started unfolding in 2008 and has continued unabated during 2009 is already considered the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Furthermore, there is a growing consensus that this crisis could extend to 2010 and eventually even go beyond. In this context, with the major world economies already suffering severe economic slowdown, developing countries are being negatively impacted by this slowdown through diverse transmission channels. The fall in demand for commodities, contraction of tourism flows, tighter access to credit, and stagnation of foreign direct investment flows are just some examples of the channels through which the global crisis is affecting the economies of the developing countries.

In that sense, the Caribbean must be considered one of the most vulnerable regions because of its strong linkage to the economic situation of the United States and the European countries, which constitute the main markets for many of the region's goods and services. Accordingly, economic indicators clearly show that, at the regional and country levels, the Caribbean is indeed going through a recessionary phase, with activity levels already falling in key economic sectors, such as tourism, growing imbalances in the fiscal and external accounts and rising unemployment, among others.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member countries (in particular the smaller States) should be considered as highly vulnerable due to the small size of their economies, their limited production diversification, their heavy dependency on tourism and other

tradable activities, and their limited access to financial resources. Under those circumstances, there is a substantial risk of a reversal of socio-economic advances made during the last years, especially in poverty reduction and critical health issues like malnutrition, infant mortality, maternal mortality and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) treatment and prevention.

The 2008-2009 economic scenario for the ECCU countries

According to data already available, 2008 was a challenging year for most Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) economies. Indeed, estimates by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) show that during 2008 the economies of the ECCU grew by a mere 2.0% compared to 6.1% recorded in the previous year¹. By sectors, the construction and tourism sectors, the two main drivers of the economy, suffered significant deceleration, affected by the global economic crisis, while the manufacturing sector also suffered a major setback fuelled by falling consumer demand. Furthermore, a fiscal deficit equivalent to 3.5% of GDP was recorded, while the balance of payments current account deficit remained at a very high level (approximately 34.4% of GDP). The debt level continued to be unsustainable at 89.5 % of GDP, raising serious concerns about the fiscal solvency of several OECS countries.

Perhaps the one bright spot has been the overall decline in inflation, catalyzed by the stabilizing of international commodities prices by the end of 2008. However, food prices are still at high levels in most member countries, adversely affecting household purchasing power and threatening food security and safety.

GDP GROWTH RATE, 2008-2009^f (Percentage)

	2008 ^p	2009 ^f
MDCs^a	1.7	-0.6
Bahamas	-1.7	-3.5
Barbados	0.5	-2.2
Belize	2.1	1.5
Guyana	3.1	0.0
Jamaica	-0.6	-3.0
Suriname	5.2	2.5
Trinidad and Tobago	3.5	0.5
ECCU^a	2.0	-0.1
Anguilla	-0.5	-4.7
Antigua and Barbuda	2.8	1.1
Dominica	3.2	1.5
Grenada	0.3	0.3
Montserrat	6.2	2.5
St. Kitts and Nevis	2.5	-0.6
Saint Lucia	2.0	-1.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	-0.5	0.4

Source: ECLAC.

^a - Simple average ^p - preliminary figures ^f - forecast.

Perspectives for 2009 are not encouraging. Preliminary information available for the first months of the year show clearly that the Caribbean as a whole is going through a recession, and, in this context, several ECCU members will probably be among the most affected countries given their structural weaknesses, limited resources and heavy dependence on external factors. In fact, it is worth noting that as a reflection of this vulnerability, as of August 2009, three ECCU member countries (Dominica, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines), have already been forced to apply for emergency funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), under the rapid-access component of the Exogenous Shocks Facility (ESF), in order to better cope with the adverse effects from the global crisis².

¹ Simple average.

² Antigua and Barbuda is another ECCU member country that has had to rely on emergency loans, in this case from the ALBA, in order to balance its budget during 2009.

Overall, growth expectations for ECCU countries in 2009 point to a significant economic slowdown, with growth rates close to zero or, even worse, negative growth rates for several countries. Thus, it is expected that the ECCU average growth rate during 2009 will be -0.1%, reflecting the contraction of the national gross product in real terms.

Implications in the social and health sectors

Undoubtedly, this negative evolution of the economy is putting into jeopardy the progress made during previous years in the social and health sectors. Available evidence shows that the Caribbean as a whole, and also individual countries, have managed to make real progress in diverse social and health gains, such as poverty reduction, malnutrition treatment, vaccination coverage and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. However, this progress was fuelled by the substantial increase, in absolute and relative terms, in financial resources allocated by Caribbean States to the social sector during the last decade.

Consequently, under the current adverse scenario, with most Caribbean countries experiencing a drastic economic slowdown, most governments in the region are faced with dwindling revenues and will be hard pressed to balance their budgets and finance their operations. Therefore, barring other factors, a contraction in public expenditure is a very probable outcome in several countries in the region. Given this scenario, the increase in social expenditures, or maintaining current expenditure levels, cannot be taken for granted.

Policy responses and fiscal sustainability

It is worth noting that governments in the Caribbean have not been idly watching the crisis unfold. On the contrary, a widespread process of implementation of policy responses has been taking place across the region since the negative impact of the global crisis on the region became apparent during the last months of 2008.

Thus, the discussion and adoption of counter-cyclical measures have taken place in practically all Caribbean countries, encompassing the most diverse areas covered by public policies. Monetary and fiscal measures, such as rebates of interest rates and tax reductions, aiming to stimulate the economy, have been adopted. Similarly,

specific measures in the labour and social fields are also being adopted by the Caribbean countries in order to preserve social welfare. In that sense, the reinforcement and expansion of expenditure in safety networks and health programs is a key element.

In the specific case of the ECCU, governments have already taken a number of policy decisions (removal of the Value Added Tax (VAT) and the Common External Tariff on selected commodities, safety net programs and unemployment benefits) to cushion the impact of the crisis on the populace and to an extent maintain economic activity by implementing the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

However, efforts to preserve public spending, particularly in social and health care and prevention, bring to the fore the issue of how to adequately >>

The way forward - Issues to be addressed

Furthermore, an essential question is how can governments secure resources and keep social and health expenditures at acceptable levels, in order to protect the advances made in recent decades. Certainly, this is likely to be an arduous and complex task that will require the full attention of policy makers at the regional and local levels.

In that sense, as a part of the discussion of an anti-crisis agenda for the Caribbean, the following concepts and ideas should serve as a basis for further discussion:

- ◆ Improving and increasing the access of Caribbean countries to resources from multilateral sources is an absolute priority, considering the acute difficulties already faced by several countries in financing expenditures. As largely middle-income developing countries, Caribbean States, and, in particular, the OECS group should intensify their lobby efforts to gain greater access to available multilateral resources.
- ◆ In that sense, it is worth noting that in the last G-20 summit, the representatives from the leading world economies pledged to provide up to US\$1 trillion to the IMF, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions, in order to support developing countries hit by the global crisis.
- ◆ Naturally, the effectiveness of this increased multilateral support depends on how well resources are allocated to key economic and social needs by developing

finance those expenditures. This is a critical issue that has to be addressed and incorporated in any anti-crisis strategy if these efforts are to be successful, since not all the Caribbean States enjoy a healthy, balanced budget and sustainable fiscal solvency. In fact, for several Caribbean States, a recurrent fiscal deficit is the norm and well before the surge of the global crisis, many faced serious difficulties in balancing public revenues and expenditures.

Consequently, there is a real risk that in the current circumstances of widespread economic slowdown and fall in public revenue, some Caribbean countries will be forced to cut public expenses, including those related to social and health welfare. Such a scenario would deepen the impact of the crisis and could translate into a reversal of advances made in key health issues.

countries. Therefore, in order to benefit effectively from this support, Caribbean States must redouble their efforts to improve transparency, agility and efficiency in public spending.

- ◆ A firm commitment to preserve and strengthen public spending in health and other social areas is required from Caribbean governments, which, ideally, should include specific floors and benchmarks in public sector budgets for expenditures in health, nutrition and education, among others.
- ◆ Priority should be given to the reinforcement of monitoring and evaluation efforts in essential social and health expenditures such as poverty, malnutrition and HIV/AIDS. In that sense, it is necessary to take advantage of the upcoming deadline for the MDG targets, in 2015, as an opportunity to conduct a widespread assessment of regional advances made, and formulate and promote common policies for the furtherance of social standards and sustainable development in the region.
- ◆ Acceleration of regional integration processes as a central element for sustainable economic growth and social development. The progress already made on the establishment of the OECS Economic Union is particularly encouraging, with June 2010 set as the date for the implementation of the Economic Union. This will see the creation of a single economic space, facilitating the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, greater export competitiveness, higher employment and human resource development. ■

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT WORKSHOPS

1 Regional Training Workshop on Data Sharing, Data Ownership and the Harmonization of Survey Datasets

The Regional Training Workshop on Data Sharing, Data Ownership and the Harmonization of Survey Datasets was held from 26 – 27 August 2009 at the Cascadia Hotel, in Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop was one of the culminating activities of the US State Department's funded project on *Improving Household Surveys in the Caribbean*, being implemented in the region since 2007.

The two-day workshop was aimed primarily at disseminating information on the outputs of the project but also served as a forum for providing training on the tools and methodologies relating to the systemization of household survey micro datasets and options for internet-based dissemination.

The main element of the training was the launch of the Caribbean Household Surveys Database (CHSD), a database developed by ECLAC for accessing micro data from household surveys throughout the region. The workshop was participatory in nature and was characterized by extensive knowledge sharing, skills development and interactive discussions among facilitators and participants. The evaluation of the workshop by participants yielded positive feedback and the majority of the participants indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the forum and its outcomes. A more in-depth account of the workshop and the results of the evaluation are detailed in the workshop reports which can be retrieved at the ECLAC website.

2 Caribbean Subregional Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population in Development (ICPD) 15 Years After Its Adoption

In commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the signature of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the ECLAC Subregional Office in collaboration with UNFPA and with support from the government of Antigua and Barbuda, hosted a two-day subregional meeting on 20 – 21 August 2009, at the Jolly Beach Hotel, Antigua and Barbuda.

The objective of the meeting was to take stock of the progress made towards achieving the ICPD goals, identify challenges and gaps in implementation and to chart the way forward.

Attending the meeting were government representatives of fifteen Caribbean countries and a number of NGOs and experts in the areas of Population and Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Gender. The forum was highly interactive and featured country presentations as well as a series of panel discussions on the key areas covered by the ICPD Plan of action. The sessions generated a high level of discussion; full details of which are can be obtained from the workshop report. The meeting culminated with the presentation of key findings and a urgent call to governments to prioritize and intensify their actions towards the full achievement of the ICPD objectives over the next 5 years. ■

LIST OF RECENT ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

Listed by Catalogue Number, Date and Title

- LC/CAR/L.201** July 2009
Report of the meeting on energy efficiency in the Caribbean
- LC/CAR/L.202** July 2009
Evaluation report – Expert group meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) monitoring in the Caribbean
- LC/CAR/L.203** July 2009
Evaluation report – Expert group meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) monitoring in the Caribbean
- LC/CAR/L.204** July 2009
The status of demographic and health-related MDGs in Caribbean countries
- LC/CAR/L.205** June 2009
Climate change: selected economic dimensions
- LC/CAR/L.206** Aug 2009
Questionnaire and Survey Methodology – Saint Lucia – Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets 2005/2006
- LC/CAR/L.207** Aug 2009
Report of the workshop on boosting SME development and competitiveness in the Caribbean
- LC/CAR/L.208** Aug 2009
St. Lucia – Survey of living conditions and household budgets 2005/2006 – User's manual
- LC/CAR/L.209** July 2009
Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC – Agenda
- LC/CAR/L.209/Add. I** July 2009
Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC – Provisional Annotated Agenda
- LC/CAR/L.210** Sept 2009
Preliminary report on the implementation of the ECLAC work programme – Subregional activities for the Caribbean – 2008-2009 biennium [covering the period 1 January 2008 – 31 August 2009]
- LC/CAR/L.211** Sept 2009
Belize – Macro socio-economic assessment of the damage and losses caused by Tropical Depression 16
- LC/CAR/L.212** Sept 2009
Report of the second expert group meeting on the development account supported project on MDG/IADG monitoring in the Caribbean
- LC/CAR/L.213** Sept 2009
Gender equality, poverty and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Caribbean subregion

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th QUARTER 2009

Informal Sector Workshop,
12-13 October St. Lucia

Training Seminar on the use of the CAN and Magic
Software Programmes,
19-20 October Trinidad and Tobago

Development Theory Seminar,
21 October Trinidad and Tobago

Meeting of experts to discuss risk reduction
strategies in the Caribbean, 26-27 October Jamaica

Expert Group Meeting on Knowledge
Management for Development,
17 November Trinidad and Tobago

Expert Group meeting on economic modelling,
20 November Trinidad and Tobago



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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