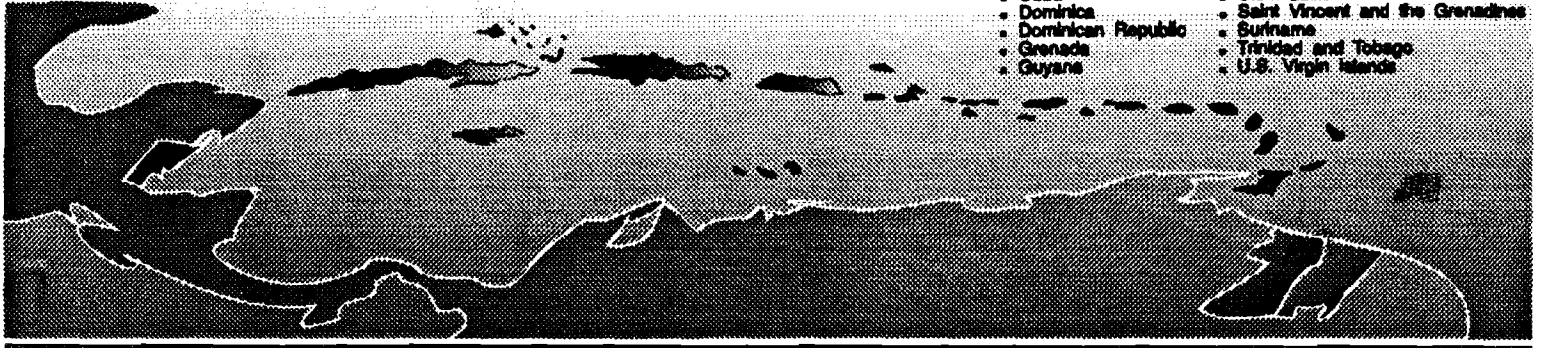




**UN ECLAC/CDCC**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



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 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
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ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE  
 UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
 POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994)

1 AGO 1994



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
**CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**



**ACTIVITIES RELATING TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994)

Over the past two years, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has been providing both technical and financial assistance to the governments of member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in preparation for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development, scheduled for 5-13 September 1994, Cairo, Egypt.

Assistance has been provided in the conduct of national, subregional and regional-level preparatory activities for purposes of:

(a) Awareness creation of: (i) linkages between population and development issues in the Caribbean; (ii) key population-development concerns requiring intervention strategies and programmes; and (iii) implications of the post-Cairo agenda for future funding and population-related programmes in the Caribbean subregion;

(b) Development of a Caribbean agenda of consensus on population and development and coordination of a Caribbean position for participation at the PREPCOM III and the Cairo Conference; and

(c) Preparation of national population reports, conduct of national population and development symposiums/seminars and establishment of required institutional mechanisms, such as national population committees to: (i) facilitate national participation in the process leading up to the Cairo Conference; and (ii) strengthen capacities for implementation of post-Cairo recommendations and the World Population Plan of Action for the next decade.

In general, assistance was provided by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the following: design and conduct of meetings/symposiums; preparation of background material and presentation of conference papers; coordination of Caribbean participation and positions taken at regional meetings; establishment and operation of requisite national and subregional institutional mechanisms; and the preparation of national population reports, the subregional Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Development, the Caribbean Plan of Action as well as the regional Latin American and Caribbean Plan of Action.

The following is a report on the preparatory activities coordinated and implemented by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in collaboration with member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in preparation for the International Conference. It is to be noted that most of these activities were co-sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

1. **National Population Reports/Symposiums/Seminars** - The National Population Report represents the main national-level preparatory activity and contribution to the International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development (ICPD). It contains a wealth of information on the demographic, social and economic situation of the country, their linkages and implications for development planning, the current population-related intervention development programmes, and recommendations for a national action plan on population and development. In most countries, a National Population Committee was established for this purpose. In addition, National Population Symposiums/Seminars were conducted for the development, launching, or presentation of the Report. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided assistance to CDCC member governments in the provision of guidelines for organization of reports, preparation of data and analyses, writing of reports and conduct of related symposiums/seminars. In addition, special missions were conducted to Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Netherlands Antilles.

2. **Caribbean Symposium on Population and Development, July 1992, Antigua and Barbuda** - The aim was to provide a forum for policy makers to review and evaluate population experiences, prioritise issues and make specific recommendations to guide future planning and policy formulation. The meeting was conducted in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNFPA. The output consisted of a report identifying national and regional population priority issues and strategies as well as recommendations for adoption at the follow-up meeting in Saint Lucia. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided assistance in the design and conduct of the meeting, presentation of the background paper and preparation of the final report.

3. **ECLAC/UNFPA Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development, 6-9 October 1992, Saint Lucia** - Assistance was provided in the organization of the meeting, coordination of Caribbean participation and preparation and presentation of a background paper. The output comprised a report containing recommendations which were used as the basis for preparation of the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus, submitted to the ministerial-level regional meeting in Mexico in 1993, for consideration and adoption.

4. **ECLAC Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, April-May 1993, Mexico City** - Convening at both the technical and ministerial levels, government representatives considered and adopted the "Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development" which served as the basis for the preparation of a Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. At this session, Caribbean delegates convened a special meeting aimed at ensuring that Caribbean inputs would be adequately incorporated into the Regional Plan of Action. The formation of a Caribbean Working Group for this purpose was recommended and adopted.

**5. Caribbean Working Group Meeting on Population and Development, 29-30 July 1993, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago** - Following the recommendation of Caribbean delegates at the Mexico meeting, a small working group of CDCC member countries was established and a meeting convened by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat with the following objectives: (a) To put in place a Caribbean subregional strategy to ensure incorporation of Caribbean interests and needs into the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action; and (b) Develop a Caribbean network for liaising with Latin America in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action. The Caribbean Working Group comprised representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The output of the meeting was a framework for a Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development which served as the basis for the elaboration of the Regional Plan of Action.

**6. ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Subregional Meeting of Government Experts for a Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, 2-3 December 1993, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago** - The purposes of this meeting were to: (a) Review the draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action prepared by CELADE, Santiago, with a view to ensuring that it adequately incorporated Caribbean issues and concerns; and (b) Set up regional institutional mechanisms and strategies for the conduct of follow-up activities relative to the post-Cairo agenda. The meeting produced a set of recommendations for revision of the Regional Plan of Action. A second output of the meeting was the formulation of the first draft of the Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

**7. Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development** - The first draft of the Declaration was formulated by representatives of 19 CDCC member countries during the ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Meeting of Experts for a Regional Plan of Action, Port-of-Spain, December 1993. The second draft was developed by a Drafting Committee appointed at the meeting, in collaboration with the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The final draft, which incorporates the comments and suggestions of member countries, is being submitted to the fifteenth session of CDCC for ministerial approval and adoption.

The Draft Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development was developed to serve the following three purposes: (a) As a briefing document for governments of the Caribbean subregion in preparation for the ICPD Prepcom III Meeting in New York; (b) As a Caribbean position on population and sustainable development for coordinated participation at the ICPD, Cairo, in September 1994; and (c) As the basic resource material for use in the revision of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action (which identifies national, subregional and regional follow-up activities to the 1994 ICPD).

This Draft Declaration was submitted to the Secretary-General of the ICPD, Dr. Nafis Sadik, by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, acting in the capacity of Chairman of the Bureau of the Port-of-Spain meeting. The Draft Declaration has since been summarized by the ICPD and included in the General Assembly PREPCOM III conference document No. A/CONF.171/PC/7/Add.1, dated 4 March 1994. Following approval and adoption at the fifteenth session of the CDCC, the Draft Port-of-Spain Declaration will be submitted to the ICPD, Cairo, in September.

**8. Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development** - This was produced in response to the recommendation contained in the Regional Consensus on Population and Development adopted at the Mexico meeting, May 1993. Its purpose is to develop national, subregional and regional-level programmes and strategies, establish appropriate institutional mechanisms, and secure funding for the implementation of the recommendations emerging from the United Nations Cairo Conference. This Plan of Action aims at harnessing regional and subregional cooperation for its direction and implementation.

The first draft was prepared by ECLAC/CELADE, Santiago, November 1993, and has since undergone a number of stages of revision: (a) The first revision was based on recommendations from the four subregional meetings, including the Caribbean meeting of experts, Port-of-Spain, December 1993; (b) The second revision took place at the meeting of the CEGAN Bureau of the Mexico Meeting, Buenos Aires, February 1994; and (c) Final revisions were made to the document at the meeting of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN), Santiago, March 1994, as set out below; and (d) This revised Plan of action and its budget was then submitted to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia, April 1994 for ministerial-level approval, as outlined in the next section.

**9. CEGAN nineteenth session, Santiago, Chile, 1-4 March 1994** - At this CEGAN meeting, the Preliminary Draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action was reviewed and finalized. In addition, the decision was taken to establish a special ECLAC Sessional Committee on Population and Development, with responsibilities for reviewing and monitoring the Plan of Action at the regional level.

The Presiding Officers of this special Sessional Committee of ECLAC were to perform these activities in the periods between sessions of ECLAC.

At the subregional level, subregional organizations would be responsible for the formulation, execution, coordination, and evaluation of subregional activities in the Plan. In the case of the Caribbean subregion, the CDCC was given this responsibility. For this purpose, the ECLAC Port-of-Spain Office would function as the technical secretariat.

In addition, the CEGAN meeting decided to prepare a budget for implementation of the Plan of Action for one year (1995), in the first instance, and biennially thereafter. It was also agreed that this budget would be presented to the Special Sessional Committee to be established at the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC.

10. **ECLAC twenty-fifth session, Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia, 20-27 April 1994** - At the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, the preliminary draft of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action was approved and adopted. With regard to the institutional mechanisms for its direction, coordination and implementation, the decision was taken to establish the Sessional Committee on Population and Development composed of the representatives of the member countries of ECLAC to be constituted at the next session of ECLAC in 1996. For the interim, a resolution was adopted entrusting the group of Presiding Officers of the CEGAN Meeting, which was held in Mexico City in 1993, with the functions of the Sessional Committee on Population and Development, until this committee is established at the next ECLAC session in 1996.

#### **CDCC - Its role and function in the coordination and implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action**

One of the major areas in the preliminary draft Regional Plan of Action requiring special attention relates to the responsibilities given to various institutional bodies/agencies at the regional and subregional levels, for the monitoring, coordination and implementation of the Regional Plan of Action. In light of the important implications of the Plan of Action for funding of future population programmes in the subregion, it would be appropriate for the CDCC to consider its role in the implementation of this regional programme.

#### **Follow-up activities - Post-Cairo agenda**

Most of the delegations of CDCC member countries nominated to attend the ICPD in Cairo are currently being briefed in preparation for their participation.

Following its adoption by the CDCC, the Draft Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development will be presented to the ICPD in Cairo and will be used as a basis for coordination of a Caribbean position at the conference.

As a follow-up to the ICPD, activities of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat will focus on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the conference as well as the execution of activities in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action, which contains national, subregional and regional-level

strategies and programmes for implementing the post-Cairo agenda. A Caribbean subregional meeting is scheduled to take place in December 1994, to review the post-Cairo agenda and discuss the implications for national and subregional action over the next 10 years. In addition, a Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting is planned to revise the regional Plan of Action in line with the conference recommendations and to initiate action on the implementation of activities.





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