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**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC
SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Biennium 2004-2005

By Subject Areas

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SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Presentation

This subprogramme is the responsibility of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which also serves as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). This office will continue to provide technical support to the Governments of the subregion to facilitate public policy-making and decision-making for confronting the main challenges posed by sustainable development in the economic and social spheres.

In the last decade, the Caribbean countries suffered a series of setbacks, mostly of external origin, for which they were not sufficiently prepared. These setbacks, compounded by the evident vulnerability of their national economies, had an impact on economic and social development in the subregion. In addition, the structural reforms implemented in the 1990s did not lead, as expected, to macroeconomic stability, owing to the volatility of the international environment and the vulnerability of the countries in the subregion to external shocks. To address the outstanding tasks, the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 has been divided up into six subject areas.

The first of these relates to macroeconomic and economic development policies and will be concerned primarily with monitoring developments in national economies and considering current trends. In this regard, it will seek to promote a strategy aimed at advancing simultaneously towards the achievement of sustained economic growth in the long term and social equity, supplemented by the principles of good governance and the improvement of citizen participation in development tasks. Some of the obstacles that must be overcome for the achievement of these goals are the sluggish pace of job creation in the productive sector, which has failed to keep pace with the rate of growth of the labour force, income instability, the high per-unit costs of production, low levels of domestic saving and relatively high interest rates.

The issues to be covered under international investment, integration and cooperation will include transport costs and their effects on intraregional trade, new trade arrangements proposed between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other economic groupings, intraregional investment and macroeconomic convergence among countries in the subregion. Further support will be provided under the subprogramme for consolidation of the process of integration in the Wider Caribbean, including the introduction of the Single Market and Economy under CARICOM and the provision of technical cooperation to enable the countries of the Caribbean to secure the best possible benefits from existing or future trade liberalization programmes.

Priority attention will be given to the collection, systematization and dissemination of economic and social data and statistics for the subregion. Persistent difficulties in accessing good quality data in the Caribbean are due mainly to inadequacies in the information infrastructure, which, currently, cannot cope with the overwhelming demand for services and data. These structures are a veritable bottleneck and require immediate attention. Thus, this component of the programme of work is designed to provide technical assistance to the countries of the subregion to enable them to develop their own capacities in this field and to help them, at the same time, to improve the supply of information to ECLAC as the focal point for the collection, systematization and dissemination of economic and social data and statistics from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Hence, the activities will be geared towards improving the quality of information and improving their delivery, creating new databases and updating and refining existing databases, with a view to responding to the growing demands from national authorities, intergovernmental organizations and other public and private users.

Work in the area of sustainable development will be devoted mainly to supporting the countries of the subregion in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small-Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994), which combines economic, social and environmental elements to promote sustainable development in the subregion as a whole. In this respect, an attempt will be made to promote the participation of ECLAC in the subregional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of that Programme of Action and in the inter-agency consultation group for subregional cooperation on related issues.

In the area of science and technology, a sustainable development approach will be fostered with emphasis on preservation of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources. The countries of the subregion will receive assistance in their efforts to revitalize agriculture and strengthen productivity in this sector. Agriculture lends itself to linkages with other productive sectors, and can be a basis for fostering industrial development, increasing foreign exchange earnings and acting as a complement to development of the tourist industry in the subregion. Technical cooperation activities will be directed towards strengthening policies for industrial development and human resource development in the countries of the Caribbean and will include certain elements of science popularization programmes; institution-building and policy frameworks and fostering the creation, adaptation and dissemination of new technologies for the production of goods and services.

In the field of social development, the subprogramme will examine the interaction of the economic and social policies and evaluate its effects on development in the subregion. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to Caribbean countries for the development of their own capacities and special attention will be paid to outstanding tasks in the area of human resource development, citizen participation and mainstreaming the gender perspective in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres in the subregion.

1. Activities

Subject area 12.1: Macroeconomic policies and economic development

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to consider recent trends in labour markets in the subregion, particularly with respect to wages, employment and productivity.

(b) Recurrent publications

Two reports on economic trends in the countries of the subregion (one for each year of the biennium).

(c) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the recent developments in labour markets in the subregion, particularly with respect to wages, employment and productivity.

(ii) A study on income instability in the Caribbean.

(iii) A study on financial intermediation and its effects on capital formation in the Caribbean.

(iv) A study on the restructuring of production and competitiveness in the Caribbean.

A study on saving and investment and long-term growth in the Caribbean.

(v) A study on saving and investment and on long-term growth in the Caribbean.

(d) Technical material

Contribution to the statistical summary and text of the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, editions 2004 and 2005. Notes on the economy of the countries of the subregion.

(e) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries of the region that request it with respect to the impact of world economic trends on policies adopted at the national and subregional levels, and changes in macroeconomic policies and economic performance in the subregion.

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.2: Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

(i) One CDCC session, involving the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation.

(ii) One meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee.

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to consider the status of trade relations between the European Union and the Caribbean in the context of the new Cotonou Agreement on trade preferences between the European Union and the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

(c) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the status of trade relations between the European Union and the Caribbean under the Cotonou Agreement recently signed by the European Union and the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

(ii) A study on trade and transport between CDCC member countries.

(iii) A study on the impact on the Caribbean of specific aspects of recent developments in the international economy in the context of globalization.

(iv) A study on convergence and coordination of macroeconomic policies between Caribbean countries.

(v) A study on transnational mergers and acquisitions in the Caribbean.

(vi) A study on the impact of free trade agreements on industries established in free zones in the Caribbean.

(d) Material and information services

(i) Publication of the quarterly bulletin Focus (UN Focus on the Caribbean) covering CDCC activities (English only).

(ii) Preparation and distribution of information notes on selected aspects of trade of relevance to CDCC member States in the context of current and future negotiations.

(e) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries of the region that request it on issues relating to trade, investment, integration and subregional cooperation.

(ii) Group training

Organization of seminars and workshops, at the request of member States of the subregion, on various aspects of hemispheric and international trade in the context of the advances towards hemispheric integration and the new international trade regulations.

(f) Intermediate activities

Preparation of studies and information papers on issues relating to trade in the context of advances with respect to hemispheric integration and new international trade regulations.

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: Statistics and information management for development

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) A meeting of experts to examine ways of improving statistical services in the subregion and to formulate proposals for increasing efficiency in this field.

(ii) A meeting of experts to consider the status of the Caribbean Digital Library initiative.

(b) Recurrent publications

Selected Statistical Indicators of Caribbean Countries (two issues in the biennium and electronic publication of material).

(c) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on statistical infrastructure in selected Caribbean countries

(ii) A study on the prospects for developing the statistical information service in selected countries in the Caribbean.

(iii) A study to assess the use of the Caribbean Digital Library and its technical and management structure as models for similar initiatives.

(d) Technical material

(i) Preparation of bibliographic summaries of the main statistical publications (Abstracts Of Major Statistical Publications).

(ii) Updating and improvement of existing databases and the design and creation of databases on new topics.

(iii) Periodic updating and improvement of the institution's web site and digital library.

(e) Material and information services

Electronic publication of the quarterly, Current Awareness Bulletin.

(f) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it in information management and the organization of statistical services.

(ii) Group training

Organization of a course on the development and updating of Internet sites for information specialists and librarians and a seminar on information management.

(g) Intermediate activities

Statistical support for activities and projects executed by the subprogramme and supply of inputs for activities conducted at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.4: Sustainable development in the Caribbean

(a) **Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts**

(i) A meeting of experts to consider the possibility of having the Caribbean Sea designated a special area in the context of sustainable development.

(ii) A meeting of experts to consider tourism issues of importance to the countries of the Caribbean.

(iii) A meeting of experts to consider the lessons drawn from the economic, social and environmental impact assessment of natural disasters that have occurred in the subregion.

(b) **Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings**

(i) Joint open-ended meetings of the Inter-agency Collaborative Group (IACG) for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small-Island Developing States, an activity which comprises the preparation of a report on the revision of the joint work programme.

(ii) Meetings with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and CARICOM on the possible declaration of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

(c) **Non-recurrent publications**

(i) A study to consider common problems in the management of semi-enclosed seas.

(ii) A report on the economic, social and environmental effects of cruise ship tourism on the development of Caribbean States.

(iii) A study to consider the lessons drawn from the economic, social and environmental impact assessment of natural disasters that have struck in the subregion.

(d) **Technical material**

Update and improvement of databases on small-island developing States.

(e) **Material and information services**

Distribution of information and press communiqués to advise on the status of the small-island developing States in the subregion.

(f) Operational activities(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it on issues relating to the new phases of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, including the formulation of national development strategies, the conceptualization of approaches applicable to problem areas and the formulation of project proposals. These services can also encompass topics such as the economic, social and environmental impact of natural disasters that have occurred in the Caribbean subregion. The operational activities relating to natural disasters only will be coordinated by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico which acts as focal point for the ECLAC system in these areas.

(ii) Group training

National training seminars will be conducted on the use of ECLAC methodology for assessing the social, economic and environmental impact of natural disasters. These will be coordinated by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico, in its capacity as focal point for the ECLAC system in these areas.

(g) Intermediate activities

Participation in the Inter-agency Collaborative Group (IACG) and support for the subregional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and related decisions adopted in multilateral forums. Collaboration with other subregional, regional or international agencies with offices in the Caribbean on issues relating to the execution of the joint work plan for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The execution of operational activities and of the activity referred to under (a) (iii) and (c) (iii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.5: Science and technology for development(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to consider the recommendations of the study on technological innovations with a potential impact on Caribbean development.

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on technological innovations with a potential impact on development in the Caribbean.

(ii) A study on new technologies and methodologies for intervention which may promote development in the Caribbean.

(iii) A study on the effects of new information technologies on the performance of the Caribbean economies.

(iv) A study on trends emerging in the subregion with respect to the adoption of science and technology policies and the operation of national science and technology councils in the context of globalization and of the regulatory frameworks favoured by the World Trade Organization.

(v) A document on technological innovation and competitiveness in the Caribbean, with special attention to the decision-making processes for science and technology, the establishment of priorities and the implementation of policies for fostering innovation and competitiveness.

(c) Technical material

Preparation and compilation of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean and of a manual on the same topic.

(d) Material and information services

Quarterly publication of the information bulletin Info Bits, which reports on scientific and technological news in the Caribbean.

(e) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries in the subregion that request it in areas relating to the contribution of science and technology to sustainable development in the Caribbean.

(ii) Group training

Workshops will be conducted for analysing the role of technological transfer in fostering technological innovation, particularly at the level of small and medium-sized enterprises and for devising programmes for the broad dissemination of science through electronic means.

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean

(a) **Organization and technical servicing of intergovernmental meetings**

(i) A ministerial meeting on women in the Caribbean, which will serve as the preparatory meeting for the ninth meeting of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to the ten-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (Beijing+10).

(ii) A subregional meeting in follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

(iii) A subregional meeting in follow-up to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development.

(b) **Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts**

(i) A meeting of experts to examine the links between the incidence and prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the subregion and social vulnerability.

(ii) A meeting of experts to examine the incidence of HIV/AIDS among young women.

(iii) A meeting of experts to analyse the links between gender relationships, family responsibilities and poverty.

(iv) A meeting of experts to consider the progress achieved in the subregion with respect to sustained growth with social equity.

(v) A meeting of experts to consider migration patterns in the subregion, with special attention to the effects of Protocol II of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy on such patterns and on other aspects of social development in the subregion.

(vi) A meeting of experts to consider the changing gender and youth relationships in the subregion and their implications for the development of cross-cutting policies.

(c) **Non-recurrent publications**

(i) A study on the link between social vulnerability and the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

(ii) A study on possible gender factors that explain the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS among young women in the Caribbean.

(iii) A study on the links between gender relationships and family responsibilities and poverty.

(iv) A study to examine the progress made in the subregion in terms of achieving sustained long-term growth with social equity, with emphasis on the special situation of small-island developing States.

(v) A study on migration patterns in the subregion, with special attention to the effects of Protocol II on the Single Market and Economy of CARICOM on these patterns and on other aspects of social development in the subregion.

(vi) A study to consider the changing gender and youth relationships in the subregion and their implications for the development of cross-cutting policies.

(vii) Two studies on the recent social trends in the subregion.

(viii) A study on the application of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Caribbean subregion as a part of the ten-year review process (Beijing+10).

(ix) A study to consider issues relating to social development in the subregion and, in particular, the implications of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

(x) A status report of the implementation of policies, programmes and projects for overcoming poverty.

(d) Technical material

Updating and improvement of the database on women and development in the Caribbean to include information on gender equity, and of the sociodemographic database for the subregion.

(e) Material and information services

(i) Publication of the quarterly newsletter, Gender Dialogue.

(f) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it in the application of the Beijing Platform for Action, the presentation of national reports on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination

against Women, promoting gender mainstreaming in all spheres, the assessment and analysis of census data and the incorporation of sociodemographic information in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes.

(ii) Group training

A workshop on the use of social statistics for the formulation and evaluation of social policies will be organized for national authorities and statisticians:

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities under this subprogramme will be conducted in close collaboration with other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and with intergovernmental agencies and international non-governmental organizations with interests in the subregion. Such collaboration will include the organization of periodic consultative meetings.

With respect to economic development, linkages with the global economy and regional integration and cooperation, meetings will be held with the secretariats of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), CARICOM, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and with the central banks of member countries of the subregion.

In the area of application of science and technology to development, activities will be carried out in close collaboration with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and with the Technology and Energy Office of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Working relations will also be maintained with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), other United Nations bodies and other international organizations, as appropriate; the subregional secretariat will also maintain close ties with relevant national agencies.

In the area of statistical services and information management for development, consultations will be held and close collaboration maintained with the OECS and CARICOM secretariats and national statistical offices of member States.

Activities relating to sustainable development in the subregion will be conducted in a coordinated way and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP and other United Nations bodies, as well as with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and CDB.

In the area of social development, the subregional headquarters will collaborate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with gender

issues and issues relating to population and development, in particular with, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials responsible for economic and social affairs and for the formulation and execution of policies, programmes and projects in the above-mentioned fields as well as international, regional and subregional organizations concerned with integration and cooperation. The outputs may be used in formulating proposals and as reference material for users in their areas of competence.

Other important users will include various public- and private-sector organizations, including business, labour and professional associations, universities and other academic institutions, applied research institutes and centres for the development and diffusion of technology.

Users will receive documents, publications and materials and information services through traditional means as well as through the most up-to-date electronic media, including the full range of options provided by the Internet technologies. Other forms of contact will include technical cooperation activities, periodic consultations and participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts.

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