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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC WORK PROGRAMME**

**SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

**2004 - 2005 biennium**

**[Covering the period 1 January 2004 – 30 April 2005]**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Within the work programme on subregional activities in the Caribbean, the integrative nature of the *sustainable development* concept is fully recognized and embraced and it is this philosophy that informs the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Activities of the Secretariat during the 2004-2005 biennium continued to focus on issues relevant to the promotion of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in the Caribbean. The operationalization of its activities are monitored through the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), which is a 23-member permanent subsidiary organ of ECLAC and is serviced by the ECLAC Secretariat mainly through the Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain

In 2004, both the *Revised Text of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* and the *Programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium* was adopted at the thirtieth Session of ECLAC in Puerto Rico, 28 June to 2 July 2004. Member and associate member States of the CDCC adopted the work programme at the twentieth session of CDCC, which took place in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, 22 and 23 of April 2004. It is expected that the revised, updated and modernized constitutional text will allow the CDCC to improve its service to its member countries. It also, significantly, supports non-independent countries in their insertion in United Nations agencies, organizations and forums.

During the biennium, the Secretariat has executed 56% of its programmed output, in addition to the 16 new outputs which were included in response to requests from the member States, other subregional institutions and agencies. During this period, the Secretariat published 31 substantive documents, including six which had been postponed from the preceding biennium. The subregional headquarters publicly launched its two databases prepared under the technical cooperation programme with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In addition, five national disaster assessment reports and one training manual were prepared during this period. The Secretariat convened three intergovernmental and seven expert group meetings and conducted three training workshops for a total of 95 persons in Belize, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and Washington, D.C.

Major aspects of the work undertaken by the Subregional Headquarters in the Caribbean included the release of the 2003-2004 edition of the Economic Survey of Caribbean Countries, including an analysis of non-independent countries of the region; the formal launch of the interactive trade and social statistical databases; preparations for the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA); the organization of a Caribbean Forum on the Information Society; the convening of the Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing; the development of strategies aimed at the reduction of poverty and HIV/AIDS levels in member States; addressing issues affecting the ageing population; and responding to requests for assessment of damages caused by natural disasters in Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica.

The exposure of CDCC member countries to *new concepts of development* and to analyses of the new regional and global structures and the potential impact on their sustainable development process was effected through documents and other forms of dissemination of information and also at meetings organized by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. This is evidenced by the continued demand from member States, regional and subregional institutions for technical assistance. This could be construed as an indirect expression of satisfaction in the work of the Secretariat. During 2004, the Secretariat responded to 66% of the number of requests received for technical assistance. In fact, member States requested other institutions to include ECLAC staff members in their response teams to the natural disaster assessments and other fact finding missions. In view of the limited resources, both human and financial, the Secretariat was encouraged to link these requests to the programmed outputs already in the programme of work, with good results. However, the work related to science and technology and statistics were affected by the retirement of the respective officers. It is expected that this situation would be reversed in 2005.

As at 30 March 2005, the Secretariat completed three successful projects, funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The projects focused on marine-based tourism in the eastern Caribbean, and the development of the CARIBTRADE statistical database and the Caribbean Social Statistics Database (CSSD). In addition, two projects are funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and two by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

A tabular presentation of the programmatic commitments within the framework of the programme of work of the ECLAC system for the biennium 2004-2005 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Status of implementation of the work programme for 2004-2005: outputs by category – as at 30 April 2005(est.)**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Program-med</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>Total Outputs</i>	<i>In progress</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>% completed</i>
Substantive servicing of meetings	5	2		7		5	71.43
Parliamentary documentation	-	5		5		5	100.00
Expert groups, rapporteurs, depository services	9	1		10		5	50.00
Recurrent publications	4	-		4	1	2	50.00
Non-recurrent publications	33	<u>12</u>	6	51	17	25	49.02
Other substantive activities	52	<u>2</u>	1	55	9	19	34.55
Advisory services	14	7		21		25	119.05
Training courses, seminars and workshops	6	1		7		3	42.86
Field projects		<u>2</u>	5	7	2	5	71.43
<b>Total outputs</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>56.29</b>

## B. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES BY SUBJECT AREAS

### 1. SUBJECT AREA 12.1: LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean implemented this section of the work programme under a number of broad themes, namely economic integration, economic reforms, trade and investment and economic development. This was done within the context of developments that the Secretariat monitors at the global, hemispheric and regional levels.

#### 1.1 Economic development issues

The Secretariat continued to prepare studies in this subject area in an effort to keep member and associate member States abreast of developments, which have implications for Caribbean economies.

- (a) In keeping with the annual programme of reporting on the economic trends in the countries of the subregion, the Secretariat published the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2003-2004*, LC/CAR/L.21. This publication is the culmination of work related to the monitoring of the macroeconomic performance of all CDCC countries. The research and analysis underlying the survey is being refined to make it more relevant and useful to member countries. Specifically, the Secretariat seeks to incorporate the most recent data and it also envisages the construction of models to map out possible macroeconomic scenarios. The report was formally launched in September 2004.
- (b) Publication of the *"Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies"* is closely associated with the preparation of the foregoing document and contributes to the statistical summary and text of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean*, editions 2004 and 2005. Document LC/CAR/G.778 and LC/CAR/L.28 were published in January 2004 and 2005, respectively.

In addition to the completed works referred to above, the Secretariat continues to work on the preparation of the following publications:

- *A study on the recent developments in labour markets in the subregion, particularly with respect to wages, employment and productivity;*
- *A study on income instability in the Caribbean;*
- *A study on financial intermediation and its effects on capital formation in the Caribbean;*
- *A study on the restructuring of production and competitiveness in the Caribbean;*
- *A study on saving and investment and on long-term growth in the Caribbean.*

## 1.2 Technical assistance

The Secretariat continued to respond to requests from member States for technical support. This is offered under a special programme with funding support from ECLAC Headquarters.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document MONCOM 12/2/Add.1.

## 2. SUBJECT AREA 12.2: LINKAGES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

Member States have been responding to the challenges of globalization by deepening and widening of regional integration and cooperation. The Subregional Headquarters has been facilitating these efforts through its research and technical assistance activities. The Secretariat assisted in fostering regional cooperation through its response to requests for assistance from associate member States of CDCC in areas such as trade and social policy. In addition, the Secretariat undertakes the preparation of studies, at the request of member countries, to evaluate the possible impact of trade liberalization on their economies.

### 2.1 CDCC meetings

A significant activity of the work programme of the during 2004 was the successful organization of the twentieth session of the CDCC in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, 22-23 April 2004. Deliberations of the meeting are provided in document LC/CAR/L.15, 9 June 2004. The next session of the CDCC will be held in 2006.

The following reports were considered at the meeting:

- a) The document "*Status of the review of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC*", LC/CAR/L.6 was considered and emerged as the revised text of the *Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC*. The *Revised Text of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* and the *Programme of work for the biennium 2006 -2007* were formally adopted at the thirtieth Session of ECLAC in Puerto Rico.
- b) Document LC/CAR/L.8, "*Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which might be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC*" included information on selected resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

- c) *“Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium”*, LC/CAR/L.9, presented a summarized report on activities carried out during the period since January 2004.
- d) The *“Work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium”*, LC/CAR/L.10, which details, by subject area, the proposed draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium 2006-2007, was submitted to the meeting for its consideration. The programme of work was subsequently adopted at the thirtieth session of the Commission in Puerto Rico. June 2004.

## **2.2 Trade and services issues**

During the period since January 2004, research was carried out on the analysis of the impact of international trading arrangements to regional developments. Some of the key documents are listed below.

- a) The document *“Meeting the challenges of the FTAA: Trade trends, export specialization patterns and regional integration in the Caribbean (including the case of the NICCS)”*, LC/CAR/L.4, provided an analysis of selected issues and highlighted some of the effects relating to regional integration focusing on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) from the perspective of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CDCC Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs).
- b) The study *“The convergent/divergent economic trajectories of Puerto Rico and the United States”* LC/CAR/L.11, was commissioned by the Department of States of the Government of Puerto Rico, with a view to understanding the convergent and divergent trajectories of Puerto Rico and the United States for a study on the economy of Puerto Rico.
- c) The publication *“Sustainable agriculture and the development of the Amerindians in Guyana: The case of the Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Cocoa Project”*, LC/CAR/L.18, was published in August 2004. This study examined an organic cocoa project in Guyana in order to determine the prospects for development of an indigenous people in the hinterland area of Hosororo.
- d) Document LC/CAR/L.19 *“Free Trade and the development of sustainable agriculture in the Caribbean”* published in June 2004, examined the options for Caribbean countries in pursuing development of their agricultural sectors given the changes taking place in the international economy.

The Secretariat is also preparing the following documents:

- *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 (ACP).*
- *A study on trade and transport among CDCC member countries.*

### **2.3 Integration issues**

#### ***Associate Member Countries (AMCs)***

With a view to addressing the particular concerns of the NICCS, associate members of the CDCC, the Secretariat, through the Working Group of the NICCS completed the following documents:

- a) *“Priorities of associated member countries of ECLAC in relevant aspects of the Summit of the Americas process and Free Trade Area of the Americas”, (LC/CAR/R.81)*
- b) *The participation of AMCs in United Nations world conferences, (LC/CAR/R.76).*

#### ***Regional***

##### **i. FTAA**

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued to provide technical support to the FTAA negotiation process through membership, along with ECLAC Mexico, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organisation of American States (OAS), on the Tripartite Committee of the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE). Support takes the form of assistance provided to facilitate the work of the CGSE at its meetings as well as assistance in preparing documents as part of the Hemispheric Cooperation Program.

##### **ii. Association of Caribbean States (ACS)**

ECLAC continued to work closely with the ACS in the preparation of papers and the convening of meetings. As part of its commitment to the ACS, the Secretariat assisted in the preparation of the following documents:

- a) Documento de base para apoyar la elaboracion del documento marco: Hacia una nueva vision de la Asociacion de Estados del Caribe, (LC/CAR/R.78), July 2004; and



- b) Cuarta cumbre de los jefes de estado y/o Gobierno de los estados miembros y miembros asociados de la Asociacion de Estados del Caribe – Borrador de plan de accion, (LC/CAR/R.79), July 2004.)

- iii. OECS

ECLAC continues to offer substantial support to the OECS Secretariat in its preparation of a study to ascertain the real and potential impacts, negative and/or positive, of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) on the member States of the OECS and in the area of disaster assessment and training.

- iv. Others

As part of its ongoing efforts to keep member States up-to-date on development issues, the Secretariat continues to hold briefing sessions with subregional representatives at the United Nations and in Washington. Through its Director and other staff, CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations were addressed on three occasions on the activities of Subregional Headquarters and on issues which were related to deliberations taking place at the time at the United Nations Headquarters.

In other instances, the Secretariat assisted member States' representatives to the United Nations in their deliberations at meetings of the various committees of the United Nations by providing information, as requested.

## **2.4 Information dissemination**

The Secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, "FOCUS", which provides information on its ongoing work.

The *ECLAC Issue Brief* previously issued as the "External Briefing Notes, which is produced twice a year, examines current economic issues and concisely highlights the implications for the Caribbean subregion.

## **2.5 Technical assistance**

During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration and regional cooperation among member States, on request.

A number of responses were made to requests from member governments for assistance in carrying out assignments on their behalf. A report was prepared for the Department of State of the Government of Puerto Rico and a project proposal was completed for the Government of the Netherlands Antilles.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document MONCOM 12/2/Add.1.

### 3. SUBJECT AREA 12.3: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean continued to work towards providing ready access to national statistics of quality; improving the availability of integrated data with special attention given to the organizational aspects of statistics and information management. In addition, the Secretariat continues to work with member States in creating accessible statistical databases with a view to providing reliable information to enable good governance.

During this biennium, particular attention is being directed towards the prospects for a Caribbean Information Society within the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). To this end, the Secretariat is fully engaged in working with regional governments in preparing for this event, the second session of which is scheduled to take place in Tunis in November 2005. To facilitate the preparatory process, the Secretariat convened The Caribbean Forum on the Information Society in Port-of-Spain on 20-21 October 2004. A follow-up meeting is scheduled to be convened in Port of Spain on 11 May 2005.

Pursuant to the objective of increasing the availability of information to researchers and decision makers, technical assistance has been provided to Secretariat staff, Caribbean librarians and tertiary level students in the Caribbean.

It should be noted that in keeping with current trends, publications, including newsletters, prepared by the Secretariat are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website <http://www.eclac.cl/portofspain/>. In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of keeping the cost of publications and dissemination to a minimum.

#### 3.1 Information management

The Caribbean Documentation Centre has responsibility for activities carried out under this subject area. The Caribbean Documentation Centre provides web-based access to several of its bibliographic databases and also maintains the [Caribbean Digital Library](#).

##### 3.1.1 *Caribbean Digital Library (CDL)*

The CDL is a virtual collection of Caribbean documents and other electronic information resources available on the World Wide Web, organized for easy retrieval under 27 broad subject headings. An annual newsletter, [CDL Update](#), informs users of the service of usage and other developments on the site. The web-based records show a trend of increased usage during the period under review. During January to April 2004, the CDL was accessed 3,229 times, with 84,786 items viewed. During the same period (January to April) in 2005 the CDL was accessed 9,336 times with 349,650 items viewed, i.e. the number of users almost tripled in one year and there was a fourfold increase in the number of documents viewed. The increase might be attributable to the fact that every available opportunity was used to promote the CDL. Brochures and bookmarks were distributed and presentations made to several forums.

In an effort to ensure the continuous development of the CDL, the Secretariat carried out an assessment on the use of the CDL and its technical and management structure as a model for similar initiatives. The report entitled “*An assessment of the Caribbean Digital Library*”, LC/CAR/R.80, published in July 2004, pointed out that the capability of the technology to extend user access to information should be explored fully. While the CDC manages and provides users with two significant information resources, the Bibliographic Database and the CDL, are not offered as a package. Access to both the CDL and the bibliographic database will offer the user an expanded view on his/her information request. A seamless linkage which gives the user access to both resources, i.e., the Bibliographic Database and the CDL, (with a clear statement of what is full text and what is not) when a search is conducted, may be an improvement. In addition, a clear statement to the user of the difference in result, between selecting a major subject heading and searching by using index terms, should be included on the main page.

### **3.1.2 *Current Awareness Bulletin***

- a) The Secretariat continues to produce the bimonthly publication *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)*. The Bulletin provides national planners, policy makers, researchers and libraries with up-to-date information on regional, economic and social issues. The CAB includes the following: a list of documents recently prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC Headquarters and other United Nations agencies as well as the most recent acquisitions of United Nations documents, arranged by subject.
- b) The bulletin is published bimonthly in English and is distributed free of charge to approximately 100 persons from the private and public sectors in the Caribbean and selected institutions. The Current Awareness Bulletin is also made accessible through the Web site, [www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org), with links to abstracts of some documents where available.

### **3.1.3 *Current Contents***

The Secretariat also continues to produce the monthly newsletter *Current Contents*, which provides users with an insight into the contents of journals, and other publications recently received in the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

### **3.1.4 *Publications***

- a) The publication “*Obstacles to implementing the Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society*”, LC/CAR/L.5, published in March 2004, critically explores, from the perspective of the Caribbean, what the transition to a Caribbean Information Society would entail in practical terms. It links the goals of the Information Society to the development goals of the region and discusses what conditions must exist if the potential benefits associated with the information society are to be realised. In this context the recently concluded first session of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is discussed.

Current and potential obstacles to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action are identified and recommendations advanced as to how these obstacles might be overcome

- b) The study “*Youth, unemployment and the Caribbean Information Society: A challenge and an opportunity*”, LC/CAR/L.13, published May 2004, explores an approach to tackling the challenge of youth unemployment that focuses on the information and communications technology sector and on nurturing the entrepreneurial initiatives of young persons. For the purpose of this paper, "youth" is defined as persons between the ages of 15 and 25. This group comprises roughly 25% of the labour force of the English-speaking Caribbean. Unemployed youth are persons in this age group actively seeking work. Two case studies are included by way of illustration.

### **3.1.5 Training**

The Caribbean Document Centre, as a part of its contribution to the annual conference of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) conducted a training workshop entitled “*The Caribbean Digital Library: a cooperative approach to digital content creation and management*” in Port-of-Spain on 27 May 2004. Forty one persons attended this workshop.

### **3.1.6 Meetings**

“*The Caribbean Forum on the Information Society*”, Port-of- Spain, 20-21 October 2004 was convened as part of the preparatory work towards the next session of the WSIS in Tunis in 2005. A Report on the Caribbean Forum on the Information Society, LC/CAR/L.30, was issued in January 2005.

## **3.2 Statistics**

During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to collect economic and some elements of social statistics to service the information needs of staff in the office and researchers in the Caribbean and beyond.

### **3.2.1 Statistical indicators**

- a) The publication *Selected Statistical Indicators* (Vol. XVI), LC/CAR/L.33 published 15 April 2005, is a collection of economic statistics. The data collected have been re-cast into a form that is amenable to relational database query. At present, most of the time series have been transformed to database format, which will allow remote users to build the table that they wish to compile.
- b) The study entitled “*Measuring the information society in the Caribbean: An assessment of the capabilities of statistical offices in CDCC member States*”, LC/CAR/L.32, published in March 2005, investigates the importance which

National Statistical Offices in the region place on the collection of these indicators and assesses the stage that member countries have reached in collecting and publishing some of these basic indicators. Responses were received from 14 of the 22 countries surveyed at the time of preparing this paper. There was considerable variation among member States with regard to the number of indicators collected and their abilities to collect the data

### **3.2.2 *Ongoing research***

- a) The Subregional Headquarters is at present conducting a statistical infrastructure survey aimed at providing a snapshot of the legal, institutional and budgetary framework existing in these countries. The survey is also designed to provide information on staff qualifications and training, available equipment and an inventory of data series collected and published. The results of this survey will be used in the preparation of a document on the development of statistical information service in selected countries in the Caribbean. It will be presented at a workshop on integrating new technologies into the work of Statistical Offices.
- b) Preparation of bibliographic summaries of the main statistical publications (Abstracts of Major Statistical Publications).

### **3.2.3 *CARIBTRADE***

- a) CARIBTRADE is the Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The database was inspired by the need to provide to a wide variety of users with rapid answers to their queries on trade statistics of the Caribbean countries. It is user-friendly and comprehensive in its capabilities. The database provides analysis of the trade data in a relatively novel manner by addressing strategic options, given a country's recent trade performance.
- b) The data have been normalized to make them as comparable as possible. The database presence on the Internet is ECLAC's contribution to creating more widespread access to critical data that has in the past not been as generally available as the present offering.
- c) The countries whose data are included in the present database are the following: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

### **3.2.4 Trade statistics database**

- a) The Secretariat continued its efforts to assist member States in addressing perennial problems in the production and dissemination of timely trade information, which, in some cases results in a severe lag in the availability of the data. This poses difficulties for planners and researchers. In response, the Secretariat successfully completed the implementation of the project NET/00/081: *Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean* [development of a trade database], with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- b) The main objective of the project was the establishment of a trade database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the provision of support at the national level in selected Caribbean countries' statistical offices. It has established general agreement on data collection protocols and common definitions, categories and classifications for various trade characteristics.
- c) Details on this project are provided in a separate report on the implementation of projects.
- d) The database was formally launched to the public on 16 April 2004, at a specially convened meeting: – Instruments of Trade Analysis and Negotiation: Introducing the CARIBTRADE database. The report of the meeting LC/CAR/L.16 was published in June 2004

### **3.2.6 Technical assistance**

Technical assistance was provided mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. In the area of census preparation, assistance was provided to the English-speaking Caribbean countries, through the CARICOM Secretariat, in planning for the Year 2000 round of Population and Housing censuses. In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics also responded to several requests for support for member States and regional institutions.

In this regard, technical assistance mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems has been provided to Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba and Montserrat through the Ministry of Planning in both countries.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document MONCOM 12/2/Add.1.

#### **4. SUBJECT AREA 12.4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The programme of work under this subject area, to date, focused mainly on issues related to facilitating the effective participation of the SIDS of the Caribbean subregion in the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005. In defining the programme of work in promoting environmental sustainability, the Secretariat took into account the major sustainable development preoccupations of a number of Caribbean SIDS which included the updating and enhancement of their national poverty reduction surveys as well as the related poverty-related policies and programmes. All these activities were developed in the context of the implementation of the SIDS POA and related international decisions and were fully supported by the Regional Advisor to the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

The Secretariat's programme of work in this area was developed in response to the new regional and global structures, reflecting the progress of globalisation and trade liberalisation. In the environmental sphere, the Secretariat is reviewing the information provided in the National Reports which are prepared by the member States. They reflect a clear recognition of the close relationship between the Millennium Development Goals on environmental sustainability and those of the SIDS Programme of Action. These actions reflect the "lessons learnt", which results in certain difficulties as regards coordination among the inter-governmental organizations of the subregion and will be addressed as a priority with a view to improving the results obtained in 2004.

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in July 2004, revised the ECLAC methodology used to assess the impact of such events to take into account the vulnerability of all Caribbean SIDS to natural disasters. To this end, the Secretariat has embarked on a training programme aimed at strengthening the capacity Caribbean SIDS to use the methodology to respond rapidly to putting in place recovery and reconstruction programmes in the wake of such disasters. It is expected that this would in a way also support the introduction of preventive measures for future disasters. So far in this biennium, the Secretariat has conducted assessments of the impact of natural disasters in the Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica.

The Secretariat also successfully completed a project on the development of marine-based tourism, as it relates to the yachting sector. This was carried out through the technical cooperation agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and ECLAC.

#### **4.1 World Summit on Sustainable Development**

A number of activities were undertaken in preparing regional governments to participate in the Mauritius International Meeting. This included preparation of documents for use at the Caribbean Regional Meeting, convened in Trinidad and Tobago, 6-10 October 2004 and the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, which took place in the Bahamas, 26-30 January 2004.

- a) One of the main publications was document LC/CAR/L.2, *“Caribbean Subregional preparations for the international meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados POA for the sustainable development of SIDS”*, published in March 2004. The document was prepared against the backdrop of the process established in General Assembly resolution 57/262. This document reviews the mode of execution, as well as the results of the activities of Caribbean SIDS, members of the CDCC, in preparation for the International Meeting which was convened during the period 10-14 January 2005, in Mauritius.

#### **4.2 Caribbean Sea**

The subject of the Caribbean Sea has engaged the interest of many delegations since 1997 and has been the subject of four General Assembly resolutions. The Secretariat continued to address issues which it considers to be of valuable interest to the Caribbean SIDS. It has prepared two documents in the growing list of papers produced in this subject area:

- a) *“Recent developments in the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development”*, LC/CAR/L.3, was published in March 2004, summarily reviews developments since the Eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC which convened on 10 April 2003, in relation to the proposal jointly spearheaded by ECLAC and the ACS and currently before the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.
- b) Document LC/CAR/L.24, which reviews the “Major issues in the management of enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, with particular reference to the Caribbean Sea” was published in November 2004. The paper reviews the major common issues encountered in the management of enclosed or semi-enclosed Seas, as defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with reference to, inter alia, the Baltic, the Beijing Sea, the North Sea, the Okhotsk Sea, the South China Sea and the Sulawesi Sea.

#### **4.3 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, a decision was taken to convene an international meeting in 2004 to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the



implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The resolution established a preparatory process for the international meeting, including regional and interregional meetings and makes repeated reference to the role of regional commissions in this process.

In this regard, the Secretariat has embarked on a programme of identifying new elements for implementation which would enhance familiarity with the sustainable development process and, at the same time, serve as a basis for evaluating the relevance of the several recommendations from the WSSD to SIDS of all regions. This process will include a re-examination of existing work programmes and the outcome of any implementation efforts arising from the identification process.

#### **4.4 Environmental information management**

The Secretariat continues its work in developing and maintaining a sustainable development database, which provides a substantive description of ongoing and planned SIDS-related projects and programmes in the Caribbean.

#### **4.5 Disaster assessments and training workshops**

The Secretariat continued its programme of providing support to member States, upon request, in the preparation of assessments as a consequence of natural disasters. Thus far in the present biennium, the Secretariat has responded to six requests for disaster assessment assistance. These actions have been followed up by the conduct of training workshops to ensure that the relevant technocrats were sufficiently trained in applying the methodology to assess the impact of the natural disasters soon after they occur.

##### **4.5.1 Disaster assessment**

- a) In an effort to ensure the usefulness of the assessment reports, the Secretariat, with support from UNDP, has completed a draft "*study to consider the lessons drawn from the economic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters that have struck in the subregion*". The study assessed the socio-economic impact of natural hazards on the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and Haiti.
- b) At the request of UNDP and the Government of Jamaica, ECLAC conducted an assessment of the damages caused by Hurricane Ivan during October 2004. The findings of the assessment were contained in the report "Assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of Hurricane Ivan on Jamaica" LC/CAR/L.22, published 20 October 2004.
- c) At the request of UNDP and the Government of the Cayman Islands, a technical mission was dispatched to the Cayman Islands in November 2004, to conduct an assessment of the damages caused by Hurricane Ivan. Both UNDP and the government were provided with an "Assessment of the socio-economic and

environmental impact of Hurricane Ivan on the Cayman Islands”, LC/CAR/L.25, published 1 December 2004.

- d) At the request of UNDP and the Government of Haiti, ECLAC completed the preliminary report “Hurricane Frances and Jeanne in 2004 – Their impact in Haiti”, LC/CAR/L.27 published in December 2004.
- e) With support from the IDB, and at the request from the Government of the Bahamas, the ECLAC team presented the government with the preliminary report “Hurricane Frances and Jeanne in 2004 – Their impact in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas”, LC/CAR/L.23 published 16 November 2004.
- f) As a result of the severe flooding which submerged the most populous parts of Guyana, the Government of Guyana requested the services of ECLAC to conduct a full scale assessment of the damages. With funding provided by UNDP, the Secretariat undertook a full assessment of the event during the period 27 February to 10 March 2005 and produced the document “Guyana: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by the January-February 2005 flooding,” LC/CAR/L.31, published on 31 March 2005.

#### **4.5.2 Training workshops and Manuals**

At a special workshop in Port of Spain, 6-7 July 2004, conducted by the Secretariat, the ECLAC methodology used to carry out assessments caused by natural disasters was evaluated and revised to take into account the special needs of SIDS. The findings of the workshop are contained in the “*Draft report on workshop on disaster valuation ECLAC’s methodology and preparation of a revised training manual*”, LC/CAR/L.17 was published 19 July 2004. The “*Disaster assessment training manual for SIDS*”, LC/CAR/L.12 was produced in April 2004.

So far in this biennium three training workshops have been conducted:

- a) The first was a “*Workshop on disaster valuation using ECLAC’s methodology*” conducted in Washington D.C., 13 – 17 April 2004. The workshop, convened by ECLAC, attracted 10 persons mainly from the IDB disaster assessment team.
- b) Following the successful implementation of the ECLAC methodology, the Belizean authorities requested a refresher course in the disaster valuation methodology. This was facilitated by ECLAC during the period 21 May to 4 June 2004 when 50 persons participated in the second course conducted in Belize.
- c) Following the major disaster in the Cayman Islands caused by Hurricane Ivan, the UNDP made an urgent request for ECLAC to conduct a training workshop on the use of the ECLAC methodology. A wide cross section of the community participated in the session which took place during the period 18 – 22 April 2005.

#### **4.4 Project implementation**

The project NET/00/79: *Development of a Regional Marine-based Tourism Strategy [study on the yachting industry]* was successfully completed on 30 June 2004. All documents produced during the term of the project are included in the Compilation CD titled “*Yachting in the Eastern Caribbean – A regional overview*”, LC/CAR/G.775 produced 9 April 2004. It was observed that while some progress had been made on the environmental sustainability of land-based tourism much less progress was made on marine-based tourism, more so, the yachting subsector. As a means of addressing this problem, the Secretariat obtained financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to implement

#### **4.5 Technical assistance**

During the period under review, the Secretariat continued to provide assistance, upon request, to member States in conducting studies and providing other types of support. Request in the area of developing a programme in the tourism sector have been received from Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and the Grenadines and private sector organizations.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document MONCOM 12/2/Add.1.

### **5 SUBJECT AREA 12.5: APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT**

The work related to the field of science and technology is based on research geared towards the development of programmes in science popularisation; policy considerations and institution building and strengthening; and new technologies and their impact on development are all elements of the technical assistance programmes that are rendered to member and associate member States in their efforts at industrial, economic and human resource development, and the role that science and technology plays in these efforts.

Bearing in mind that a new approach has been suggested for the development and expansion of the productive sectors in the subregion, the Secretariat prepared two studies discussing these new approaches.

The implementation of the approved programme of work in this subject area was disrupted when the incumbent officer retired. In the interim, the Secretariat has utilised the services of temporary staff in carrying out aspects of the programme of work in this subject area.

#### **5.1 Development of new technologies in the Caribbean**

- a) The document *Survey of potentially new technologies that will impact on Caribbean development*, LC/CAR/L.14, May 2004, provides some insight as to

the options in new technologies in the fields of agriculture, natural resource management, water resource management, forestry, fisheries and energy, all areas that are crucial to sustainable development in the region

- b) The Secretariat's proposed document on "*Technological innovation and competitiveness in the Caribbean*" will focus on the 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.

## **5.2 Science and technology policies**

*"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"* will be completed by the end of the second quarter 2005. The study focuses on the resurgence of interest in science and technology in the Caribbean..

## **5.3 Information technology**

As part of its programme in preparations for the WSIS global conference, the Secretariat is preparing the document "*A study on the effects of new information technologies on the performance of the Caribbean economies.*" This report will be released by the end of June 2005.

## **5.5 Information dissemination**

The Secretariat's quarterly newsletter "Info Bits" provides information on selected topics on science and technology.

## **Technical support**

### **5.7 Technical assistance**

Technical assistance continues to be offered, upon request, to member States and to regional and subregional institutions.

A detailed list of requests received for technical assistance is presented in document MONCOM 12/2/Add.1.

## 6 SUBJECT AREA 12.6: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Activities carried out under this subject area cover the full range of social development activities. This includes work carried out in women's affairs, social development, poverty, issues related to accelerating gender equality, ageing, violence and youth, domestic violence, social vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS, inter and intra regional migration, and the provision of support to member States that request assistance.

An activity of significant interest in 2004 was the attention being given to the social consequences of natural disasters. As a result all assessments on natural disasters include a component on the social impact of the event. The Secretariat continues to support the initiatives of subregional organizations and agencies, such as the OECS, the United Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and CARICOM in advancing the research in the social development arena

### 6.1 Global conferences

The ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat continues to provide substantive and operational support to member States in follow-up activities related to the global conferences with respect to social development.

#### 6.1.1 *Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+ 10)*

- a) The Secretariat continues to monitor activities related to the ICPD process. In this regard, it convened the Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing, as a follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, which took place in Port of Spain, 8-10 November 2004. The meeting was a joint effort between this office, the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of Social Development, Government Trinidad and Tobago.
- b) A key document for the above-named meeting was the study "*Population Ageing in the Caribbean: Longevity and quality of life*", LC/CAR/L.26, published 8 December 2004, which focused on the living conditions of the elderly in the Caribbean. The data on the situation of the elderly are still scarce in the Caribbean, in spite of the fact that the region has, outside Europe and North America, the highest percentage of elderly people in its population. In order to bridge this knowledge gap, a survey on the living conditions of the elderly population will be conducted in one (or two) ECLAC/CDCC member State(s).

#### 6.1.2 *World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) – WSSD+10*

- a) The follow-up to the WSSD continues through technical assistance provided mainly in the area of poverty reduction strategies and the monitoring and

evaluation of programmes and policies through an evidence-based approach. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the third quarter 2005,

- b) The Secretariat has developed a training manual and materials; and has conducted orientation sessions for Cabinet-appointed committees and training sessions for senior technocrats and members of civil society in developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and Action Plan using a Human Development Agenda framework. To date, three such sessions have been facilitated and the final processes are underway for the completion of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Completion has been scheduled for the third quarter of 2005.

### **6.1.3 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +10)**

In 2004, ECLAC/CDCC convened the *Fourth Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women: Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action*, in St Vincent and the Grenadines, during the period 11-13 February 2004. The meeting was co-sponsored by UNIFEM, CIDA and CARICOM and focused on three thematic areas: (a) poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity; (b) empowerment and institutional building from a gender perspective; and (c) sexual and reproductive health with particular reference to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). In relation to the theme of empowerment and institutional building, the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat commissioned and supervised a review of the national machineries for women for carrying out the mandate of the Beijing Platform for Action. The findings of the study were presented at the meeting. The Secretariat also presented papers on the other two themes of poverty and sexual and reproductive health with a focus on HIV/AIDS. The paper on HIV/AIDS focused on the possible gender factors that explained the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS among women and girls of the subregion. The proceedings of the meeting are reported in document LC/CAR/L.1 published on 24 March 2004 and a revised version was issued on 20 January 2005.

- a) Following the deliberations and proposals of the delegates, the final document *The Kingstown Way Forward: Recommendations and Conclusions* was adopted unanimously. Through this Declaration, delegates adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening the process towards the attainment of gender equality, social justice and development in the subregion with particular reference to women.
- b) Prior to the ministerial meeting the *Technical Meeting of the National Machineries for Women* was convened on 11 February 2004. The meeting concluded that a Caribbean strategy for accelerating gender equality should focus on strengthening capacity, networking and influencing policy makers. The proceedings of the meeting, its conclusions and recommendations are published in the document LC/CAR/L.29.

- c) The Secretariat is preparing *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)*. It is due in the third quarter of 2005

### **6.3 Migration**

- a) The Subregional Headquarters has begun a study on labour movements in the subregion, including the return of emigrants, and their impact on socio-economic policies in the Caribbean (in relation to the CSME).
- b) Document WP/2005/1 *Migration in the Caribbean: What do we know?* presents an overview of data, policies and programmes at the international and regional levels to address critical issues and will include additional aspects of migration, such as human rights, the spread of HIV/AIDS and migration. The paper will be used as a background document for the expert meeting on migration scheduled for later in 2005 and will provide critical input into a background document currently prepared by the ECLAC Population Division, CELADE, in preparation for the General Assembly high level dialogue on migration in 2006.
- c) This study follows the initial paper which focused on labour movements in the subregion, including a case study of emigration of health professionals in Trinidad and Tobago with the aim of analysing the impact of the massive exodus of nurses on the public-health system.
- d) In this regard, working relationships have been established with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) in Barbados which are currently undertaking an assessment of the scope of emigration of nurses and its socio-economic implications on the public health systems in the subregion. Also with the WHO Department of Health and Development, which conducts crucial analysis in the assessment of trade in health services.
- e) The Secretariat will convene an expert group meeting on migration in the Caribbean later in 2005 to discuss issues related to the implementation of the CSME and to identify critical areas in relation to migration in the Caribbean to be included into the ECLAC/CELADE background document to be submitted to the 2006 General Assembly high level dialogue on migration.

### **6.5 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

- a) At present, the Secretariat is engaged in monitoring the indicators related to the MDGs. As part of the exercise, the Secretariat participated in the Launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report for Barbados and the OECS and Review of Interim and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (IPRSPs/PRSRs). The Meeting was convened in Barbados by the UNDP, 31 March - 1 April 2005.

- b) The Secretariat submitted a draft working paper which reviewed four country IPRSPs/PRSPs, examining the manner in which the country papers addressed the issues of vulnerability and susceptibility. The country papers reviewed were Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The paper concluded that generally the conceptual appreciation of social vulnerability was weak which resulted in the weak strategic responses identified in the papers to reduce susceptibility or to build resilience. This draft paper forms part of a wider review of poverty programmes which the Secretariat intends to complete by the end of the biennium.
- c) The document *Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs: An examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/G.776, published in January 2004, discusses the challenges faced by Caribbean countries in producing and managing data. It examines and analyses infrastructural capacity and key data issues, and also explores requirements for capacity building in the field of social statistics in the subregion. This document can be accessed at [www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org)

## 6.6 Social vulnerability

Under this thematic area, the Secretariat prepared the study *Challenges in the social sector confronting Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/L.7, published 5 April 2004, which presents the main challenges in the area of social development which have been identified by governments in the subregion. In that regard the areas selected for discussion were the population dynamics of the Caribbean SIDS; unequal gender relations and its effects on the spread of HIV/AIDS; and emerging issues in poverty reduction such as poverty and ethnicity, evidenced-based policy formulation and social vulnerability.

- a) The Secretariat convened a meeting in 24-25 June 2004 to launch the Caribbean Social Statistical Database (CSSD) and to present the results of the pilot test of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for five countries in the Caribbean: Belize, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The report of the meeting, LC/CAR/L.35, has been published.
- b) The Paper Caribbean Small States, Vulnerability and Development, WP/2005/3, was presented to the 7th SALISES Conference, 17-18 March 2005. The paper draws on the work undertaken by the Secretariat in the assessment of natural disasters in four Caribbean SIDS: Grenada, Jamaica, the Grand Cayman and Haiti to illustrate the extent of vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS and the implications of that vulnerability on social policy, governance and development.
- c) A collaborative study has been undertaken with the CDB and OECS, at the request of UNIFEM, to conduct a gender impact assessment of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada. The results of the findings were presented at the UNDP/CDERA



meeting: Beyond 2004 events- Lessons for the Caribbean, 25-26 April 2005 in Jamaica. A full report is being prepared.

- d) As part of its continuing work in this area the Secretariat will provide technical assistance to those countries wishing to introduce social vulnerability modules in either the CWIQ Surveys being undertaken or in the development Survey of Living Conditions.

### ***Gender and HIV/AIDS***

The Secretariat conducted a gender assessment of national HIV/AIDS programming in three countries, namely the Bahamas, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. One particular area of focus was on gender relations among youth and the implications for cross-cutting policies. The findings of the study pointed generally to an absence of gender analysis in HIV/AIDS policies and a lack of cross-cutting policies to address gender socialisation practices which contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS. The study was funded by UNIFEM and its preliminary findings were presented to an Inter-agency Roundtable in July 2004, Barbados. The draft report will be finalised for publication in the second quarter of 2005.

### ***Gender and Macroeconomic Policy***

The Secretariat has been implementing a project *Integrating Gender into Macroeconomic Policy* in an attempt to assist member countries to develop macroeconomic policies which are compatible with the goals of gender equality in accordance with commitments outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Port of Spain Consensus and other consensus documents.

ECLAC/CDCC, with financial support from CIDA, conducted a needs assessment of economic planning units in gender analysis in selected Caribbean countries. The overall findings of the study pointed to an absence of gender analysis in macroeconomic policy formulation. The Secretariat in collaboration with UNIFEM also convened an expert group meeting in December 2004 to consider the findings of the study and to develop a training agenda for economic planners in the Caribbean. The project is entering a second phase which will encompass research, training and awareness building. Full details are presented in the document MONCOM 12/2/Add.3 on the Activities Related to the Implementation of Extrabudgetary Projects.

### ***Gender Indicators***

ECLAC Santiago has been implementing since 2000 (with financial support from the Government of Italy, UNIFEM and UNFPA) an inter-agency project *Use of Gender Indicators in Public Policy Making*. In September 2004 with the financial support of UNFPA, this project was extended to the Caribbean for the construction of gender indicators that were comparable to those being developed in Latin America. Datasets for the construction of the indicators, where possible, were drawn from the CSSD. In all, 63 indicators were selected for construction. Due to issues related to data availability 14 of the 23 ECLAC/CDCC member States were targeted. The indicators are to be presented on the ECLAC website.

## 6.6 Development of Social Statistical Databases

- a) ECLAC/CDCC successfully completed the implementation of the Dutch-funded project *Development of Social Statistical DataBases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States*, NET/00/035. The project ended on 30 June 2004.
- b) The main objective of the project was to improve the social conditions of persons living in ECLAC/CDCC member States through the development of fully searchable social statistical databases at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain.
- c) An evaluation of the project was presented to an ECLAC/CDCC Seminar: Reporting on the Results of the Social Vulnerability Index in Port of Spain on 23-24 June 2004. The report of the meeting is available as document LC/CAR/L.35.
- d) Further work is continuing on the development of the SVI Index and on the maintenance of the CSSD.
- e) The database is available via the web at [cssdbs.eclacpos.org](http://cssdbs.eclacpos.org).

## 6.7 Newsletters

### *Gender Dialogue Newsletter*

The Secretariat publishes the newsletter *Gender Dialogue* in response to calls from participants at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Trinidad in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women.

### *Population and Development Newsletter*

The Secretariat has recommenced the publication of the newsletter *Population and Development Newsletter* after a two-year absence. It will be made available electronically on the ECLAC/CDCC website.

### *Database on Women and Development.*

The Women and Development Bibliography: 1990-2000 is currently being updated and will be presented on the ECLAC website by the end of the biennium.