



UNITED NATIONS



Distr.  
LIMITED

LC/CAR/L.120  
MONCOM 13/3  
25 June 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Thirteenth meeting of the  
Monitoring Committee of the CDCC  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago  
28-29 June 2007

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC WORK PROGRAMME  
SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

**2006 - 2007 biennium**

**[Covering the period 1 January 2006 – 31 May 2007]**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

The focus of the activities of the secretariat during the 2006-2007 biennium continued to be on assistance to member governments of the subregion with policy-making and development strategies, especially on issues relevant to the promotion of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in the Caribbean. As such, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean embarked on developing a partnership approach to the delivery of the outputs aimed at strengthening its dialogue and interaction with the global community and improving regional collaboration and integration.

To this end, a major decision was taken to refocus the operational aspects of the secretariat to ensure that it was relevant to the development goals of its members. One of the changes resulting from this was the restructuring and renaming of the Caribbean Documentation Centre. The Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC), as it is now known, has changed its emphasis from organizing and disseminating documents and is now a more proactive partner in the research undertaken by staff and other users of the service. However, due to a reduction in its complement of staff since the start of the biennium, the secretariat has so far been able to implement only 50 per cent of its programmed output, with an additional 38 per cent in progress.

One key milestone was the adoption of the programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium at the twenty-first Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in Port of Spain, 16-17 January 2006, and its subsequent approval at the thirtieth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The meeting recommended, among others, the need for more direct action on the issues of vulnerability and social cohesion. Also at this meeting, the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) was created to implement the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean. Included among the guiding principles of the RCM is the need for “information sharing and coordination across a wide range of issues and institutions...”

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean presented a Caribbean perspective to the seminal document *Shaping the Future of Social Protection*. This study took into account the special challenges being faced by Caribbean States in developing strategies relevant to advancing sustainable social development in the subregion.

On the issue of social security and sustainable social development in the Caribbean, the secretariat convened a high-level ministerial dialogue to review social policies and programmes within the subregion and evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable population groups in the Caribbean. The meeting, held during 15-16 June 2006 in Antigua and Barbuda, noted the need for more reliable high-quality quantitative data to encourage more effective policy analysis in the Caribbean, especially in the development of poverty assessments and poverty reduction strategies. A major output of the meeting was the adoption of a Social Development Framework for the Caribbean which will act as a strategic guide to comprehensive actions necessary to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sustainable development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In response to this need for data, the secretariat will be embarking, shortly, on the implementation of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)–funded project aimed at improving the comparability of social statistics produced in the Caribbean through household surveys and at ensuring international standards of comparability. This would result in strengthening the capacity of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean to produce harmonized household survey data sets for comparable analyses at the regional and international levels and new variables for their micro data sets.

In the field of information management and as part of its continuing follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the CDCC secretariat convened an Information and Communications Technology Policy Makers Seminar in Barbados in September 2006. The seminar, targeted principally at senior policy makers with responsibility for ICT strategic planning explored ICT planning in the context of national development planning.

Given the concerns about the competitiveness of Caribbean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by the business community, the secretariat, with support from the Division of Production, Productivity and Management at ECLAC, Santiago, convened a workshop in Barbados on 27 July 2006. The workshop brought together the Caribbean business sector to promote an exchange of ideas and experiences and to set priorities for a research and technical assistance agenda.

During the period 27 and 28 November 2006, a two-day technical meeting was convened to review the status of gender indicators in the Caribbean in the POS office. This technical meeting formed one component of the inter-agency project *Elaboration of Gender Indicators for English-speaking Caribbean Countries*. The overall objective of which is to provide Caribbean policy-makers with adequate and updated information on the most strategic factors of gender inequity and the consequences for women and men. This meeting was convened in collaboration with the Women in Development Unit at ECLAC Headquarters.

On 12-13 December 2006, an expert meeting was convened to discuss the interrelationships between changing population dynamics and socio-economic development in the Caribbean. The meeting discussed the economic and social security and social protection under changing demographic dynamics as presented in the background document.

While the hurricane season was not as severe as in previous years, the secretariat was called upon to offer technical support to Guyana and Suriname. This support was provided by a multi-disciplinary team form to assess the impact on livelihoods caused by extensive damages due to wide spread flooding in certain parts of both countries. Comprehensive reports were prepared and presented to the governments and the effort earned very positive reviews.

At the request of the Government of Guyana, and with support from the Division of Production, Productivity, and Management at ECLAC, Santiago, a comprehensive study was prepared on the prospects for the development of alternative sources of energy in Guyana. The study focused on the use of bio fuels, especially ethanol.

A tabular presentation of the programmatic commitments within the framework of the programme of work of the ECLAC system for the biennium 2006-2007 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Status of implementation of the work programme for 2006-2007: outputs by category**

| <i>Category</i>                                 | <i>Program-<br/>med</i> | <i>Added</i> | <i>CF</i> | <i>Total<br/>Outputs</i> | <i>In<br/>progress</i> | <i>Terminated</i> | <i>Completed</i> | <i>%<br/>completed</i> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Substantive servicing of meetings               | 7                       |              |           | 7                        | 2                      |                   | 3                | 42.9                   |
| Parliamentary documentation                     | -                       | 4            |           | 4                        |                        |                   | 4                | 100.0                  |
| Expert groups, rapporteurs, depository services | 9                       |              |           | 9                        | 3                      |                   | 5                | 55.6                   |
| Recurrent publications                          | 6                       | -            |           | 6                        | 3                      |                   | 2                | 33.3                   |
| Non-recurrent publications                      | 30                      | 3            |           | 33                       | 9                      |                   | 16               | 48.5                   |
| Other substantive activities                    | 22                      |              |           | 22                       | 12                     |                   | 7                | 31.8                   |
| Advisory services                               | 13                      | 2            |           | 15                       | 6                      |                   | 9                | 60.0                   |
| Training courses, seminars and workshops        | 6                       | 3            |           | 9                        | 1                      |                   | 8                | 88.9                   |
| Field projects                                  |                         | 3            |           | 3                        | 2                      |                   |                  | 0.0                    |
| <b>Total outputs</b>                            | <b>93</b>               | <b>15</b>    | <b>0</b>  | <b>108</b>               | <b>38</b>              | <b>0</b>          | <b>54</b>        | <b>50.0</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 monitored by the secretariat 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, 2005-2006*, LC/CAR/L.97. 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.

(b) Publication of the *Caribbean economies 2006: A preliminary overview*, LC/CAR/L.113, is closely associated with the preparation of the foregoing document and contributes to the statistical summary and text of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, LC/2327-P, edition 2006 published by ECLAC, Santiago.

#### 1.2 Financial issues

(a) In an effort to understand the financial situation in the subregion, the secretariat prepared *A study on the factors that influence capital market development in the subregion*, LC/CAR/L.104. The study analyses the role capital markets play in providing term finance for enterprise development and other projects.

(b) Given the recent fiscal performance in the CARICOM region, in particular identifying the principal sources of tax revenue in the various countries, ECLAC/CDCC prepared a "*Study on tax reform in the Caribbean*", LC/CAR/L.94, focusing on the challenges to tax reform processes in select member states providing the underlying rationale of the chosen reform.

(c) *The study on the relationships between debt accumulation and economic growth in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.106, analyses the accumulation of debt in the Caribbean, and in particular the interplay of the fiscal and external sector in generating debt, and consequences of debt accumulation on the real and financial sectors. The document was presented at the Technical meeting of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group, January 2007

(d) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Division of Economics at ECLAC, Santiago, and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), convened a technical meeting “to consider the usefulness of development banking in the Caribbean” in the Turks and Caicos Islands over the period 13-14 November 2006.

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

- *Economic trends in the countries of the subregion - 2006-2007*
- *A study on the fiscal impact of trade liberalization in the economies of the subregion*

### **1.3 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, Santiago.

## **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 regional integration and cooperation. The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean 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 preparation of studies, at the request of member countries, to evaluate the possible impact of trade liberalization on their economies is undertaken by the secretariat.

### **2.1 CDCC meeting**

A significant activity of the work programme was the successful organization of the twenty first Session of the CDCC in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 January 2007. Document, LC/CAR/L.86). The next session of the CDCC will be held in 2008.

The following reports were considered at the meeting:

a) *Report on the implementation of the ECLAC work programme – Subregional activities for the Caribbean 2004-2005 biennium*, LC/CAR/L.84, presented a summarized report on activities carried out during the period since January 2004. There were also reports on the publications produced, meetings convened and seminars and workshops conducted as well as information on the technical assistance provided to member countries and regional institutions

b) 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 2006, 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 number of papers were prepared for use at the Technical meeting of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group: *Treatment of asymmetries in the context of Regional cooperation*, Port of Spain, 11 and 12 January 2007.

a) The document *Promoting economic Links between the integration schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean: A CARICOM perspective on selected issues*, LC/CAR/L.111, provides an examination of the economic links between the integration schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean from a CARICOM perspective. The paper looks at trade and trade-related issues, tourism, services, infrastructure, production, financial mechanism

b) The document *Special and differential treatment in CARICOM*, LC/CAR/L.109, provides an analysis and assessment of Special and Differential Treatment in CARICOM. These provisions were designed to narrow the divide between the less and more developed countries in the subregion. These provisions included not only import restrictions, but also the imposition of capita controls and monitoring of capital flows. The main objectives, therefore, were to protect the less developed Caribbean countries and, in particular, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) intraregional trade share.

c) The study on *The treatment of asymmetries: Review of the issues*, LC/CAR/L.110, reviews the existing asymmetries of various countries within the Rio Group, particularly those related to size and vulnerability, and their implications. It also looks at these asymmetries in global and regional trade arrangements.

d) The *Report on the treatment of asymmetries in the context of regional cooperation*", LC/CAR/L.112, was also discussed at the Technical meeting of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group: "*Treatment of asymmetries in the context of Regional cooperation*" Port of Spain, 11 and 12 January 2007



The secretariat is also preparing the following documents:

- a) *A study on the implications of trade liberalization for trade performance and competitiveness in the Caribbean;*
- b) *A study on the participation of associate member countries of ECLAC in United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies.*

### **2.3 Integration issues**

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

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

With a view to addressing the particular concerns of the AMCs, the associate members of the CDCC, the Secretariat has completed the document *The ECLAC Associate Member Countries: Meeting challenges and new opportunities from globalisation*, which examines the development challenges and new opportunities arising out of globalization in the tourism and financial services sectors, respectively in the ECLAC associate member countries.

#### ***Regional***

##### **i) 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 provided support in the convening of the 19th Meeting of the Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) held in Port of Spain June 2006. Two presentations were made by the secretariat which represent the preliminary results of ongoing studies:

- a) *Special and differential treatment in regional integration agreements in the greater Caribbean;*
- b) *The stylized facts of regional integration processes.*

ii) Rio Group

Another area of interest during 2006 was the convening of the Technical meeting of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group: Treatment of asymmetries in the context of Regional cooperation, in Port of Spain, 11 and 12 January 2007. The technical meeting was convened to prepare the framework on issues pertaining to the treatment of asymmetries to be presented to the Summit of the Rio Group which was held in Guyana.

## **2.4 Information dissemination**

The secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, "FOCUS", which provides information on its ongoing work and increases awareness of the current issues of interest to the Caribbean public. So far, two double issues have been produced, the first presents an overview of establishment in the Caribbean of the RCM for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and also provides information on social security, ageing and social protection. The other issues looks at a range of issues related to ICT developments in the Caribbean.

The *ECLAC Issue Brief* previously issued as the *External Briefing Notes*, which is produced twice a year, examines current economic issues and concisely highlights implications for the Caribbean subregion. Issue Brief No. 23 - Special Issue 2006 - reviews the recent rise of bilateral free trade agreements - Issues, implications and lessons for the smaller economies of Latin America and the Caribbean

## **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. 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.

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

### **3.1 Information management**

During this biennium, the secretariat in response to the demands of economies that are becoming increasingly knowledge based, shifted its information delivery focus from documentation using the techniques of knowledge management. This shift culminated in a change of name and the CKMC was launched in November 2005.

More recently the Caribbean Knowledge Management Portal was launched at a meeting of information specialists in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, primarily as a vehicle to disseminate the information products and services of the CKMC, which include a Caribbean

Skills Bank Communities of Practice, the most advanced of these being in the area of disaster mitigation and risk assessment.

One of the important aspects of the work of the CKMC involves providing support to CDCC countries in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the WSIS. The secretariat's approach has always been to link the implementation of an ICT strategy with the subregion's development goals. This is the context in which the ICT Policy Makers Seminar was convened in Barbados in 2006 and more recently, the meeting on Digital Content Management and the Workshop on Knowledge Sharing in the public sector. In an effort to ensure wider circulation of its work, an entire issue of the CDCC Focus newsletter (July/December 2006) was devoted to a review of ICT in the Caribbean and ICT Profiles of selected countries are made available through the ECLAC website.

The CKMC manages the ECLAC website, the public face of the organization. Newsletters and all other documents, prepared by the Secretariat are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website [www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org). In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of keeping down the cost of printing or disseminating publications.

### ***3.1.1 Current Awareness Bulletin***

a) The Secretariat continues to produce the bi-monthly 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. It serves as an outreach information service in those areas of cooperation which CDCC member governments have identified as crucial for regional, economic and social development. 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 bi-monthly 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 website, [www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org), with links to abstracts of some documents where available.

### ***3.1.2 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 CKMC.

### **3.1.3 Publications**

a) Continuing to focus on what the transition to a Caribbean Information Society would entail in practical terms, the secretariat continued to do research in this area. The study entitled *The World Summit on the Information Society: Outcomes of the Tunis Phase*, 16-18 November 2005, LC/CAR/L.102, highlighted some of the outcomes of the Tunis phase of the WSIS.

b) Following in the same vein the *Report on the development of the Information Society in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.103, assesses the ICT policy and applications in e-government and State modernization in the following nine Caribbean countries: The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

c) The *ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Research 2000-2005*, LC/CAR/L.85 is a compilation of research studies completed by the secretariat during the period 2000 -2005.

### **3.1.4 Meetings and seminars**

In pursuit of the goal of transforming the subregion into a Knowledge Society, the secretariat continued to organize meetings and seminars to further advance the work in the development of a public policy approach to the digital challenge in the Caribbean.

a) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Barbados and the United Nations ICT Task Force, convened the ICT policy seminar in Barbados, 4-5 September 2006, for 54 high level officers in the public sector from the Caribbean. The meeting created an awareness among these ICT officials ‘for development concepts and approaches, and to promote the formulation of inclusive ICT public policies and examines the linkages between ICT strategies and national development strategies.’ Detailed information on the seminar can be obtained in the July-December 2006 issue of the FOCUS Newsletter, as well as in the meeting report LC/CAR/L.99.

b) In collaboration with the Ministry of Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an Information *Specialist Expert Meeting* was held over the period 15-16 May 2007. The seminar explored the changing role of librarians and information specialists in the context of a Caribbean Information Society, particularly as this relates to managing digital content to facilitate better decision-making.

### **3.1.5 Training**

The CKMC, as a part of its contribution to the development and strengthening of capacity among information providers and users in the subregion, has been working towards the setting up of a Caribbean Information Society. To this end, we have conducted three training workshops.

The following reports were used as background information:

- a) *The World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes of The Tunis Phase* [LC/CAR/L.102]; and
- b) *Exploiting the potential of the Caribbean Information Society as an enabler of human development in the region* [LC/CAR/L.103].

This was followed by the convening of a Telecommunications Roundtable, LC/CAR/L.96, May 2006 which brought together academics, practitioners, experts, and regulators for a panel discussion of current issues surrounding the telecommunications sector. Approximately 48 participants attended.

## **3.2 Statistics**

For the first half of the biennium, the secretariat was forced to function without a full time statistician due to the lengthy recruitment process. However, this did not result in the termination of activities in this area as 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. The Statistician assumed duties in December 2006.

### ***3.2.1 Statistical indicators***

The publication *Selected Statistical Indicators* (Vol. XIX), LC/CAR/L.115 published April 2007, 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 a database format, which will allow remote users to build the table they wish to compile. The Unit provided inputs for the preparation of the Annual Economic Survey of Caribbean Countries 2005-2006 [LC/CAR/L.97] and the Caribbean economies 2006: a preliminary overview [LC/CAR/L.113]

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

- a) The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is at present conducting a study on the information structure of service sectors in the Caribbean aimed at providing a snapshot of the legal, institutional and budgetary framework existing in the countries of the subregion.
- b) Preparation of bibliographic summaries of the main statistical publications (Abstracts of Major Statistical Publications).

### ***3.2.3 Meetings***

A meeting of senior statisticians and specialized personnel of data-producing government agencies to discuss the ownership and sharing of information was conducted on 25-26 June 2007 in Trinidad and Tobago.

### **3.2.4 Projects**

The secretariat has started the implementation of two projects:

a) The project “Improving Caribbean Household Surveys” is being implemented with the aim of improving the comparability of social statistics produced in the Caribbean through household surveys and to ensure international standards of comparability. It is expected that the project would seek to build consensus among National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean on common data collection protocols, definitions and classifications for various social variables; strengthen the capacity of NSOs to produce harmonized household survey data sets for comparable analyses at the regional and international levels and new variables for their micro data sets; and improve electronic accessibility of systematized household micro level data sets via the Internet.

b) The Subregional Headquarters has been engaged in the execution of the project on “Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment”, Project 0607A. The lead agency for this UN Development Account (6th Tranche) Project is ESCAP. The project aims to improve data on informal sector and on informal employment for the promotion of evidence-based social policies at the national and interregional levels. It is expected that the project will raise awareness among national statistical offices and other relevant government agencies in participating countries of the importance of collecting and disseminating data on the informal sector and informal employment, and of compiling exhaustive estimates of GDP. The project would work towards improving technical capacity of national statistical systems in participating countries to collect, compile, analyze and disseminate data on informal sector and informal employment, in line with internationally agreed methodological standards.

### **3.2.5 Technical assistance**

Technical assistance was provided mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics also responded to several requests for support for member States and regional institutions.

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

In this area of work, the secretariat continued to focus on issues related to the sustainable development of its member States.

At the twenty-first session of the CDCC, 16-17 January 2006, the RCM was established to address the sustainable development of SIDS.

## 4.1 World Summit on Sustainable Development

A meeting of the Expanded Core Group to consider the Establishment of an RCM for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean, was convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 March 2006. The report of this meeting entitled *Meeting of the expanded core group for the establishment of a regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Mauritius strategy*, LC/CAR/L.90, May 2006, will be presented for such further discussion at the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, 28-29 June 2007.

### 4.1.1 Research studies

a) In order to identify the challenges that SIDS might be encountering or anticipate that they might encounter in implementing the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, in August 2006, ECLAC prepared and served a questionnaire to 23 CDCC member countries and 11 regional organizations that have placed sustainable development on their agendas. A document entitled *Challenges in implementation of the Mauritius strategy for further implementation of the small islands developing states programme of action (MSI) in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.101, refers. The results of this thematic survey have been analyzed and have been made available to participating countries. These results will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) scheduled for late 2007 where a strategy would be developed to address the outcomes in terms of developing a programme of assistance to these very countries that would be reflected in the work programme for the next biennium.

b) In preparation for the 10-year review of the SIDS Programme of Action (POA), Caribbean SIDS discussed their specific priorities to progress on the sustainable human development agenda. The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean prepared a document entitled *Caribbean priorities in implementation of the small island developing states programme of action (SIDS/POA)*, LC/CAR/L.100, that outlines that Caribbean SIDS require support from the international donor community in development and implementation of activities on issues such as the impacts of climate change on health and agriculture; capacity building for tourism and renewable energy; clear delimitation of national boundaries in management of coastal and marine resources; development of indicators for waste management, food security, water and sanitation; and the conduct of vulnerability assessments to the impacts of natural disasters.

### 4.1.2 Meetings

a) A meeting of the Core Group to consider the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean was convened in Port of Spain 15-17 January 2006. The meeting agreed to the establishment of an RCM to oversee the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. The meeting was guided in its deliberations by a Discussion Paper entitled *Operationalisation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS/POA) Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean*. The report, LC/CAR/L.87, provides details of the meeting.

b) Following the setting up of the RCM, a special meeting of the now Expanded Core Group was convened in Port of Spain on 16-17 March 2006 to make decisions on the operationalization of the RCM for the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action/Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean. The guiding principles were adopted. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will serve as the secretariat of the RCM for the next two years. Consensus forged on the guiding principles, objectives and functions of the RCM and its organizational structure and management arrangements. [Meeting report LC/CAR/L.90]

## **4.2 Human rights and sustainable development**

ECLAC has commissioned a study on sustainable development from a human rights perspective and the challenges it represents for Caribbean SIDS. This signals the introduction of the concept of a rights-based approach to sustainable development. This study also has the scope to enhance the mainstreaming of human resources into development policy and also the mainstreaming of gender dimensions into sustainable development policy

## **4.3 Caribbean Sea Commission**

a) 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 interest to the Caribbean SIDS. ECLAC, as the technical arm of the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC), prepared a draft work programme to inform the work of the Commission. This was done in consultation with the member states and is up for discussion at the fourth meeting of the Commission. This work programme addresses both governance and technical scientific matters as well as project management and seeks to advise participating member States in adopting measures towards conservation of the Caribbean Sea. The proposed work programme would be discussed at the 11<sup>th</sup> inter-sessional meeting of the ACS.

b) To consult with partners in preparation of the work programme, the secretariat convened a Brainstorming session in Trinidad and Tobago to obtain views on the modality of stakeholder consultations in order to obtain views, suggestions and opinions to inform the work programme of the Caribbean Sea Commission. ECLAC also met with technical colleagues to further the discussion on the format of the consultations. LC/CAR/ L.117

c) In preparation for the brainstorming session, ECLAC researched and presented the work programmes of other Sea Commissions. Other initiatives such as the Caribbean Sea Assessment, the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project and the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project were presented at this meeting. The recognition of all these initiatives served to promote complementarity among them and the proposed work programme of the Commission and to avoid duplication.



#### **4.4 Energy and the environment**

ECLAC supported both Jamaica and Guyana, with support from the Natural Resources Division in Santiago, in the conduct of studies into the potential for bio fuels as a source of energy. This would also address diversification of the sugar industry in light of the new trade agreements with the EU. The studies provided advice to the governments as to the feasibility of using sugar cane as well as rice and bagasse (waste) for generating energy. The net effect is positive in terms of foreign exchange savings and in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. ECLAC has been requested to be part of the panel that would evaluate proposals from private investors for the production of bio ethanol in Guyana, [Study on Bio fuels in Guyana, LC/CAR/R.86]. Planning for the diversification of the agricultural sectors has already started by the Government of Guyana

ECLAC has been offering advice to the Government of Montserrat on the feasibility of using geothermal energy. Again, ECLAC has been invited to evaluate proposals from a select number of geothermal development firms and investors. This would take place after the energy policy has been finalised.

#### **4.5 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. In response to the debate on the aluminium smelting, it produced a brief on the facts on the aluminium smelting industry. The main section focuses on a cost-benefit analysis of the industry by highlighting a few carefully referenced facts.

#### **4.6 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. Policy advice was provided in developing a coordinated approach to disaster assessments in the Caribbean. This was addressed at the meeting convened by ECLAC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office for Barbados and the OECS, OECS and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA) to review the disaster assessment methodologies with a view to streamlining them to promote strengths and address weaknesses.

##### ***4.6.1 Disaster assessment***

a) The Meeting of experts to consider methodologies for disaster assessment: A regional approach, convened in Port of Spain, 27 Feb-1 March 2007, was designed to bring together experts in the field of disaster risk reduction to review the existing tools and methodologies that are available for use in disaster mitigation. The meeting successfully examined different methodologies, discussing their merits for addressing disasters in the Caribbean and highlighting the need for collaboration in optimal use of these methodologies; conducted a review of the assessment methodologies; an inventory of institutions that have developed and/or utilize one or several of the methodologies. It is expected that strategic

linkages and applications for improving disaster risk in the Caribbean subregion will be developed within a developmental context. [Details of the meeting can be examined in document LC/CAR/L.116].

b) 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. The results of the exercise is provided in the document entitled *Guyana – The impact on sustainable livelihoods caused by the December 2005-February 2006 flooding*, LC/CAR/L.88.

c) Suriname also experienced severe flooding to several parts of the hinterland and the secretariat responded, with support from UNDP, by conducting an extensive assessment of the damages during the period 2-11 November 2006. The findings are contained in the report *Suriname: The impact of the May 2006 floods on sustainable livelihoods*, LC/CAR/L.114.

#### **4.6.2 Training workshops**

Three training workshops have been conducted in this biennium:

a) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Belize, February 2006.

b) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters conducted at the World Bank in Washington, April 2006.

c) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Suriname, November 2006.

#### **4.7 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. Requests 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.

## **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.

### **5.1 Science and technology policies**

a) In an effort to foster the development of Science and Technology Policies in the Caribbean, the secretariat undertook a *Study on the impact of the operation and management of agencies and institutions working in the field of science and technology in CDCC member countries*, LC/CAR/L.95, which reviews the operation and management of agencies working in science and technology in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Saint Lucia. It is expected that this study will provide an input into the work of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) in the development of a science and technology policy.

b) As part of this initiative, it is expected that the *Study on the causes and consequences of low rates of specialization in science and technology in the Caribbean and proposals for addressing the situation* will be completed by the end of 2007.

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

a) The secretariat is fully aware of the concerns of the unsustainable use of water, its scarcity; pollution, monopoly and the lack of access to water-related public services of significant sectors of the population, which all illustrate the relevance of water governance. As such, ECLAC seeks to encourage a comprehensive and holistic approach to water resources management and, therefore, proposes to conduct in the subregion an assessment of the capacity of the national water authorities to promote integrated water resources management within the context of the principles and techniques of Integrated Water and Resources Management (IWRM), considering existing national profiles. This study will be piloted in three countries, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada.

b) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) conducted a Workshop on Indicators for follow-up of the Agro 2015 Plan for the improvement of agricultural and rural life in the Summit of the Americas, LC/CAR/L.91

## **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 intraregional migration, and the provision of support to member States, upon request.

### **6.1 Global conferences**

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

In follow-up to the WSSD Plan of Action, the secretariat convened the High-level Ministerial Dialogue – Social Security and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, in Antigua and Barbuda, 14 and 15 June 2006, resulting in the development of a framework to promote sustained social development in the Caribbean to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the subregion. [Report of the meeting LC/CAR/L.92]

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

##### 6.1.2.1 Women in Development

a) In preparation for the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled for 6-8 August 2007 in Quito, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in Antigua and Barbuda, 22–23 May 2007. The theme of the meeting was the contribution of women to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Support was provided to the special Inter-agency meeting on the Secretary General's Study on Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, 6-7 April 2006. The secretariat presented a paper which provided an overview of actions to end violence against women in the Caribbean.

### **6.2 Population Issues**

#### ***6.2.1 Population age structure***

a) The paper *Changing population age structure and their implications on socio-economic development in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.98, presents the main trends in demographic development of Caribbean populations over the past decades. It further elaborates on the critical challenges arising out of these demographic transformations with regard to social protection and social security in the subregion and presents an overview of initiatives

governments are undertaking to address these issues. In particular, the paper includes an analysis of the situation of various vulnerable groups, with a focus on the elderly in the Caribbean subregion. It suggests that there is need for a full assessment on how far Caribbean countries have advanced to address these changes with adequate policies and programmes.

b) Sixteen experts from various United Nations bodies, regional institutions, the University of the West Indies (UWI), and governments attended a meeting of experts to examine the interrelationships between population and socioeconomic development in the Caribbean subregion. The findings of the meeting, held in Port of Spain, 12-13 December 2006, will further provide the subregion's input into Caribbean-wide, but also regional and international, conferences on these topics. [Report of meeting LC/CAR/L.108]

### **6.2.2 Migration**

a) The paper on *Migration in the Caribbean: Brain-drain – remittances – Diaspora*, LC/CAR/L.107, discusses the causes and consequences of the brain-drain in the Caribbean, with particular reference to the brain-drain in the health sector. The paper further elaborates on two possible approaches to cope with the losses and to enhance the benefit of those nationals living abroad. This paper was presented to an international conference organized by the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm, Sweden, with the aim of bringing Caribbean issues on migration to the attention of a wider audience.

b) ECLAC/CDCC is currently working on a joint exercise with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migration data collection, management and sharing mechanisms in the Caribbean. It is expected that a meeting would be convened in the last quarter 2007 to present its findings.

### **6.3 Social vulnerability**

a) A study *Changing population age structure and their implications on socio-economic development in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.98, analyses changes in the Caribbean countries' population structure, with special attention to issues related to ageing. This paper presents the main trends in demographic development of Caribbean populations over the past decades. It further elaborates on the critical challenges arising out of these demographic transformations with regard to social protection and social security in the region and presents an overview of initiatives governments are undertaking to address these issues.

b) As in many other parts of the developing world, little is known or written about disability in the Caribbean. The Statistics and Social Development Unit has recently produced a report entitled *A socio-demographic analysis of the census data for four Caribbean countries on ageing*. This document presents the major findings of a statistical analysis of population census data sets (2000 census round) conducted for four countries in the Caribbean subregion: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. This study is the first comprehensive attempt to analyze national census data with a specific view at the elderly population, their health, and well-being, inclusive of a discussion of their living arrangements and economic security.

#### 6.4 Crime, Violence and Poverty

a) There is growing concern that the increasing incidence of violence affecting a number of Caribbean SIDS could derail the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and reduce development potential, through diversion of expenditure away from social development and poverty reduction, to national security. An additional concern is that increasing violence might threaten social cohesion, give rise to instability and slow down the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) processes.

b) As a consequence of this problem, the secretariat has begun work on a study into the links between poverty, urban violence and social cohesion in selected Caribbean SIDS. The study will be carried out in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The study will utilize the Participatory Urban Appraisal (PUA) Methodology developed by scholars such as Chambers and Moser in the mid-1990s.

#### 6.5 Youth

a) The secretariat continues to do research on a situational assessment and analysis of the adolescent and youth population in selected countries of the wider Caribbean. The first study, *Social outcome and characteristics of youth in Trinidad and Tobago*, LC/CAR/R.90, was prepared with consultancy support. This exercise would involve the collection, collation and presentation of baseline and other data on the adolescent and youth population in Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. From the assessment of the information it would be possible to identify the gaps and challenges faced by the target population and provide policy recommendations for improving the conditions of the youth and adolescent populations.

b) During the second quarter 2007, plans are to present the findings at an intergovernmental meeting to follow up on Millennium Development Goals which would focus on *Youth and social cohesion*.

#### 6.6 Gender

a) Under this thematic area, the secretariat prepared the research paper entitled *Nutrition, Gender and Poverty in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.105. The paper focuses on gender and poverty and the impact on the nutritional status of Caribbean populations as an indicator of economic and social inequalities building on data gathered on hunger and poverty in the Caribbean. It also examines the linkages between gender, nutrition and poverty in the English-speaking Caribbean, building on data gathered on hunger and poverty in the Caribbean. Gender refers to the social construction of relations between males and females. It also seeks to sensitize policy makers on the severity of socioeconomic conditions on poverty and food security in the Caribbean and makes recommendations on how gender issues should be taken into account in developing policies on hunger and nutrition. It identifies relevant data and information to assist in effective decision-making regarding gender inequality, poverty, food, and nutrition security in the subregion.

b) Taking into account that not enough work has been conducted on the impact on natural disasters on the household, the secretariat prepared the paper looking at the *Impact of natural disasters on households: lessons in disaster mitigation for reducing exposure to risk and vulnerability*. This research was carried out at the request of the Government of Jamaica and presented in Jamaica at Conference on May 29-30, 2006

### **6.6.1 Gender Indicators**

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continues to support the inter-agency project being implemented by the Women and Development Unit in ECLAC, Santiago, since 2000 (with financial support from the Government of Italy, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (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.

## **6.7 Newsletters**

### **6.7.1 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 and Tobago in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women.

### **6.7.2 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. The secretariat has produced five issues of the newsletter that are available electronically and have been widely distributed to government institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia.

## **6.8 Other activities planned to be completed by the subject area include:**

- a) A new publication entitled the “*Caribbean Development Review*”;
- b) A paper entitled *The disabled in the Caribbean - a four country study (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago)*;
- c) Study on *Social integration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Caribbean SIDS*;
- d) A study to review gender policies in the subregion. This paper would focus on the *Contribution of Women to the Economy and Social Protection especially in relation to Unpaid Work Performed by Women in the Caribbean*.

## 6.9 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.

a) ECLAC/CDCC is collaborating with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the implementation of an interregional Development Account Project on ageing. Two Caribbean countries, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, are included in this project. This project provides technical assistance to CDCC member countries in the area of needs assessments and policy advice to address critical issues on ageing.

b) Substantive technical support was provided to all government ministers and national machineries with responsibility for women's/gender affairs, to facilitate their participation in the on-line virtual forum and dialogue between ministers and heads of the machineries for the advancement of women during the period 29 January to 2 February 2007. The main aim of the online dialogue between ministers and heads of the machineries for the advancement of women was to define the main messages of the document entitled *The contribution of women to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which will serve as a basis for discussions at the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 6 to 9 August 2007. The online dialogue was moderated by the Chief of the Women and Development Unit, ECLAC, Santiago.