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**REPORT OF THE SUBREGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE  
CARIBBEAN FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002)**

Havana, Cuba, 28-29 June 2001

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Terms of reference**

1. The Subregional Preparatory Meeting of the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development was convened by the Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph (f) of decision 1 as adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and pursuant to chapter 38 of Agenda 21, resolution A/RES/55/199 of the United Nations General Assembly and decision 17 as adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Place and date of the meeting**

2. The meeting was held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 June 2001.

### **Attendance**

3. Representatives of the following States members of the subregion participated in the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles and United States Virgin Islands.

5. A representative of Indonesia, a State Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Commission, attended as an observer.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by an official of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

7. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

8. The following United Nations specialized agencies were also represented: World Meteorological Organization and Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

9. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Development

Bank (CDB), European Union, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the World Bank.

10. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were present: **In special consultative status:** Federación de Mujeres Cubanas. **Roster:** Caribbean Conservation Association and Earth Council.

11. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations were present: Academia de Ciencias de Cuba, Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba, Brigadas Técnicas Juveniles, COHPEDA, Comités de Defensa de la Revolución, Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba, CUBASOLAR, Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre, Grupo de Ecología y Medio Ambiente, Hábitat Cuba and Pro Natura.

12. Representatives of the Institute of Marine Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme also attended.

### **Election of officers**

13. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chair:	Cuba
Deputy Chairs:	Belize Saint Lucia United States Virgin Islands
Rapporteur:	Barbados

### **B. AGENDA**

14. At the first plenary session, the following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Organization of work
4. Issues, priorities and challenges relating to Agenda 21 within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
  - (a) National activities, including country reports for presentation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

- (b) Subregional activities: experience of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group regarding the Small Island Developing States process
5. Identification of new and emerging issues of critical importance to the Caribbean subregion within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of Agenda 21, and consideration of proposals for presentation to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
  6. Report of the panel of civil society organizations
  7. Adoption of proposals and recommendations for submission to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

#### Organization of work (agenda item 3)

15. The Chair informed the participants that on the morning of 29 June a panel of civil society organizations would be held. The conclusions reached by that panel would then be presented to the plenary. A working group would also be formed to draw up the subregion's contributions to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit.

16. It was agreed that statements by international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations would be included under agenda item 4 (b).

### **C. OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS**

#### **Opening session**

17. At the opening session, addresses were delivered by Mr. Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa, Director and Representative of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme; Ms. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; Ms. Anne Forrester, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Barbados; and Dr. Rosa Elena Simeón Negrín, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba.

18. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC recalled that the Commission, together with UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, had launched the regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the valuable assistance of UNDP. The present meeting was one of four subregional forums at which the respective countries would arrive at conclusions that could then be brought together at the

Regional Preparatory Conference. The region had thus embarked upon an orderly, constructive and cumulative process that would enable it to formulate meaningful inputs for the World Summit.

19. The subregional meeting had a number of objectives. The first was to undertake an evaluation of the progress made by the countries of the Caribbean subregion in implementing Agenda 21. That evaluation would enable them to identify challenges and remaining tasks, key policy issues, priorities and follow-up activities with a view to the formulation of a regional platform of action for sustainable development. The Caribbean Governments were committed to implementing Agenda 21 and were striving to do so within the context of the Barbados Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted in 1994. Those Governments had created an exemplary structure for the Agenda's implementation based on a highly specific joint work programme which had been derived from the 15 chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. ECLAC and CARICOM served as the secretariat for the implementation of that programme, in which numerous regional agencies, regionally-based non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies were undertaking the corresponding activities.

20. The organization of regional preparatory conferences for world summits had become a tradition in Latin America and the Caribbean. At such conferences, ECLAC had the privilege of fulfilling the mandates received from Governments of member States and its own mission by providing input in the form of studies and proposals. The present occasion was the first time, however, that the region had the opportunity to undertake prior consultations at the subregional level with a view to the formulation of a common agenda. Another unique feature of the current preparatory process was the fact that a detailed agenda for the World Summit on Sustainable Development had yet to be drawn up. Accordingly, the current preparatory process was also the first occasion on which the region had the opportunity to bring its shared interests to the negotiating table and to help shape the agenda that would be submitted to the Heads of State for their consideration at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002.

21. The Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean noted that the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development had begun at the national level, was currently being pursued within a subregional framework and would then progress to the regional level. Provision had been made for two additional preparatory forums: the Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001, and the meeting of small island developing States due to be held ahead of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. That process would enable the countries of the region to identify their needs and arrive at a consensus on the position to be taken in Johannesburg.

22. UNEP had been collaborating with UNDP, the Earth Council, CARICOM, a wide range of non-governmental organizations and the University of the West Indies (UWI), among others, at the national level and with ECLAC and other partners at the regional level to further the preparatory process. UNEP was therefore confident that the present meeting would generate

extremely available inputs for the Regional Preparatory Conference and the World Summit itself. UNEP and ECLAC were making every effort to assist the participants in the four subregional meetings to reach a consensus and to arrive at a clear interpretation of the region's environmental needs as a basis for its strategic positioning within the preparatory process. The region was in particular need of international support in the form of resources and environmentally sound technologies as it pursued a sustainable development path.

23. The speaker expressed the hope that the deliberations of the participating delegations and those of the other subregions would enable Latin America and the Caribbean to arrive at Johannesburg with a unified and well-founded position. The prime objective of UNEP was therefore to foster the fullest possible consideration of the issues so that the region could adopt a shared position at the World Summit and garner greater international assistance for Latin America and the Caribbean. It was not simply a matter of reaffirming the region's commitment to achieving sustainable development, but also of obtaining the necessary resources to do so. It was the responsibility of all the countries to act before it was too late.

24. The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean noted that one of the unique attributes of the meeting was that it offered a forum in which to undertake a substantive analysis of problems, needs and interests of particular importance to the small island developing States of the subregion, which were one of three such clusters in the world. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States had been adopted at a United Nations global conference, which had been convened for the purpose of translating Agenda 21 into specific policies and initiatives for tackling the most important challenges facing them in relation to sustainable development. The present meeting should by no means be regarded as detracting from Agenda 21; on the contrary, it provided a means of analysing efforts to implement that Agenda within the framework of its most concrete expression in the subregion, namely the Programme of Action.

25. In collaboration with a number of regional agencies, in November 1997 the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean had organized its first and, to date, only meeting held to analyse the progress made in implementing the Agenda. On that occasion, it was found that although there was no question as to the Agenda's validity, mechanisms and systems for its implementation were lacking. Accordingly, the countries had established follow-up mechanisms and modalities based on a uniquely Caribbean model involving the participation of member States, a Bureau responsible for political oversight, a joint work programme covering some 120 activities to be undertaken by 24 agencies and a Secretariat formed by ECLAC and CARICOM. Since that time, ECLAC had organized 10 SIDS-related meetings and had published eight reports and two books on the subject. The most recent publication, *The SIDS POA, Agenda 21: the Road to Johannesburg 2002*, which would be distributed during the meeting, reviewed the implementation of the joint work programme and spoke of the issues that must be addressed in relation to the implementation of the Programme of Action and Agenda 21.

26. Although progress in many areas had been modest and unevenly spread across the subregion, the Caribbean now had a broader picture of the many dimensions of sustainable development. As part of that broader approach, during the second phase of the Agenda's

implementation, which had begun in 1999, the economic and social aspects of sustainable development were also being addressed. However, in the past few years various circles within the international community had challenged both the concept of small island developing States and that of “vulnerability”. It was therefore important to strengthen the Caribbean’s ties with other regions and to work to safeguard the gains made at international forums and enshrined in international accords. It was to be hoped that at the present meeting the countries would succeed in defining and articulating the subregion’s interests, priorities and concerns together with the activities and measures required for their defence.

27. The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Barbados informed the meeting that the Programme was deeply committed to the preparatory process. UNDP was working to facilitate the preparations for the World Summit at the national level and to ensure that all stakeholders, including civil society, were involved in that process so that the current needs of all sectors might be met without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations.

28. The Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba noted that the achievement of sustainable development represented a formidable challenge that could not be side-stepped, since it impinged upon the fate of coming generations. Small island States needed to ask themselves how much of their resource endowment had been extracted in ways that did not promote their own development.

29. The Caribbean countries had a great responsibility in that respect. The Minister was therefore grateful that so many Caribbean countries were represented at the meeting in Cuba and saw it as a demonstration of the many interests and concerns that were shared by the small island developing States. The meeting should serve as an opportunity to evaluate their progress to date and to chart a direction for the future. Those findings should then serve as a basis for the formulation of proposals for presentation at the Regional Preparatory Conference and at the World Summit. The developing countries had succeeded in maintaining Agenda 21 as the framework for efforts to achieve sustainable development, but the resources provided for that purpose had, in fact, declined, and the expected intensification of technology transfer had been constrained by a variety of factors, including patent laws.

30. Cuba defined the concept of sustainable development in terms of the quality of life of the population, which entailed not only the achievement of a cleaner environment but also a freer and more participatory population that was able to enjoy the use of its natural resources and an economic level that was in keeping with the sort of society that they all hoped to attain. Sustainable development therefore entailed nature, culture, traditions and sovereignty. The Minister looked forward to a highly productive exchange of ideas and experiences relating to sustainable development that would lead to the formulation of a unified position which would reflect the many elements that united the small island developing States of the subregion.



## **Closing session**

31. At the closing session, the representative of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the meeting, which had helped him to gain a better understanding of the situation in the Caribbean subregion. In view of the common ground that existed between the Caribbean subregion and the South Pacific, it appeared that the adoption of a shared agenda would be a possibility. With respect to his region, the importance of the country reports lay in their contribution to a long-term capacity-building process; on the basis of those reports, the agencies operating in that region would prepare a document concerning the overall picture, which would be very similar to the findings of the present subregional meeting.

32. The Chair said that the time had come to stop for a moment and take stock, as there was a long road ahead to the World Summit. The meeting had been marked by its friendly atmosphere and it had been a pleasure for Cuba to host it, as the Caribbean was part of its culture and they were partners in the struggle to protect the environment.

33. One of the delegations proposed that the report should include an expression of gratitude to the Government of Cuba and to the meeting organizers. That proposal was fully endorsed by the other speakers.

34. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the countries' inputs had been very valuable; the fact that in some cases country reports had not been concluded was an important warning sign. The subregional analysis had also been very worthwhile and had produced valuable findings. The text that had been unanimously adopted as the subregion's contribution to the Regional Preparatory Conference was a very balanced document which placed the environmental situation within its worldwide context while also highlighting the unique features of the Caribbean.

35. The Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed admiration for the work carried out by the countries. The region had to mount a major effort in order to make a meaningful contribution to the World Summit, and it was therefore necessary to make the most of the opportunities offered by the preparatory meetings to define a position in defence of the countries' interests. He offered the full support of UNEP and of its sister organizations of the United Nations system to that end.

36. The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean assured all the participants that her office would work closely with all the countries with a view to their full participation in the preparatory process for the World Summit. She particularly thanked the host Government for its warm hospitality.

37. The Principal Adviser to the UNDP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean commended the participants on the outputs of the meeting. Those results would facilitate the continuation of the regional preparatory process, which would be an essential input for the

forthcoming World Summit. He had noted the requests for assistance from some Caribbean countries and promised to respond to them as soon as possible.

38. The Rapporteur said that, thanks to the present meeting, the subregion now had material to present to the other preparatory meetings that reflected the unique environmental conditions found in the Caribbean. It was the duty of all the participants in the present forum to draw attention to those conditions in other arenas and to see to it that they did not go unacknowledged.

#### **D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Issues, priorities and challenges relating to Agenda 21 within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: National activities, including country reports for presentation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (agenda item 4(a))

39. The participating delegations then proceeded to review the progress made by each country in implementing Agenda 21 within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and in preparing country reports for presentation at the Regional Preparatory Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro. A number of countries had experienced difficulties in drafting those reports due to a shortage of financial and human resources. It was noted that some of the agencies that were active in the subregion, together with countries that had already completed their reports (Barbados and Cuba), could assist those countries that had not yet been able to do so and thus help to ensure that all country reports would be ready prior to the Regional Preparatory Conference.

40. The representative of Barbados also outlined the experience gained in the course of the preparation of its country report, and offered to share that experience with other countries.

41. The delegation of Cuba also offered to share the experience it had gained in the preparation of its country report with other countries in the Caribbean subregion through the provision of technical assistance. Interest was expressed by other countries in that possibility. In that connection, UNDP was requested to help in the identification of additional funding from other sources, including Capacity 21. Such funding should also be made available to support cooperation among countries in sharing relevant experience. That activity would be organized in countries that requested it, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator for each country would ensure coordination among ECLAC, UNEP and UNDP. The Earth Council also expressed interest in contributing to that effort.

42. UNDP was also requested to continue its joint efforts with ECLAC and UNEP at the subregional and regional levels and to be fully involved in supporting the organization and implementation of activities in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly the Regional Preparatory Conference which was scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001.

43. In reviewing the status of efforts to implement Agenda 21, a number of delegations referred to the role of education in promoting public awareness of environmental issues and fostering community participation. Educational and public information campaigns were being undertaken in a number of countries to those ends.

44. Emphasis was also placed on the work being done to strengthen and update the countries' institutional and legislative structures for the achievement of sustainable development. The shortcomings of those structures, combined with a lack of sufficient human capacity, constituted a serious impediment to further progress.

45. A third factor identified by many representatives was the lack of suitable data and indicators to provide input for decision-makers and the failure, in many cases, to incorporate such assessments into macroeconomic and other policies. In order to furnish a sufficient supply of relevant data, indicators needed to be constructed that would provide an accurate measurement of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. Those measurements would, in turn, provide a means of ascertaining whether or not the countries were moving in the right direction and would help to determine the way ahead.

46. Another major area of concern for the small island developing States was disaster preparedness and mitigation. A number of the countries were working to upgrade their disaster response mechanisms and to determine what further steps should be taken in that area.

47. There was general agreement as to the importance of strengthening coordination in all areas of activity relating to sustainable development. The countries needed to find ways to measure their progress and distil their priorities in order to make further headway.

Issues, priorities and challenges relating to Agenda 21 within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Subregional activities: experience of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group regarding the Small Island Developing States process (agenda item 4(b))

48. In a presentation that was intended to provide a basis for the adoption of proposals for presentation at the Regional Preparatory Conference and, ultimately, the World Summit, the representative of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reviewed the status of efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national and subregional levels and discussed the role of regional and regionally-based agencies in the implementation process. New and emerging issues of critical importance to the subregion in relation to Agenda 21 were also highlighted. In concluding his presentation, he drew attention to a number of principles and guidelines embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States that might be reiterated at the World Summit.

49. The UNDP Resident Representative underscored the fact that the present meeting was a unique opportunity for the Caribbean countries to decide how they could help ensure that results of strategic importance for them would be achieved at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The main objective of UNDP was to address the needs of developing countries, and it was working to form partnerships that would help it to do so. The Programme was also assisting countries to develop a navigation chart that would enable them to determine what was truly strategic and feasible and was supporting the countries' efforts to promote a dialogue among all the stakeholders involved in the global preparatory process. In addition, UNDP was working with UNEP and ECLAC to organize a panel on sustainable development financing with a view to the Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit in Johannesburg. Other funding-related efforts included UNDP programmes financed by the Global Environment Facility and Capacity 21. The representative concluded her presentation by reaffirming UNDP support for its partner countries in their quest for greater equity in the governance of the global environment.

50. The Chief of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC outlined the objectives of the regional preparatory process and presented a detailed analysis of the challenges and opportunities for the region associated with the World Summit. In the 10 years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held, a number of very important changes had occurred, including the intensified effects of the globalization process together with its heterogeneous and asymmetrical characteristics. She also referred to the emergence of new modes of production and consumption, the countries' heightened interdependence and vulnerability, and the creation of new integration schemes, among many other new factors which needed to be taken into account. One of the hallmarks of that period had been a shift in the countries' export profile towards environmentally-sensitive modalities of natural resource extraction. On the social front, poverty had been reduced, but the situation with respect to income distribution had either stagnated or grown worse. Job stability and working conditions had deteriorated, and intensive international migration was taking place in conjunction with rapid urbanization.

51. Efforts in the sphere of environmental management had revealed a degree of fragility and a lack of institutional continuity. Economic instruments were gradually being introduced that complemented direct regulatory and monitoring mechanisms. One of the most important challenges in that area was to delink economic growth from pollution and intensive resource use. The region also needed to strengthen its position in relation to the global agenda and achieve the full incorporation of environmental issues into financial and trade negotiations. The central need was to articulate a Latin American and Caribbean vision of sustainable development.

52. The Regional Coordinator of the Evaluation and Early Warning Division of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean outlined the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) process being used as a basis for proposing means of assessing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. The preparation of country reports was a key element in the preparatory process for the World Summit, which provided for a progression from the national to the subregional, regional and then global levels. UNEP was also working to construct scenarios of what the future would look like if the global community continued along its current path.

Those scenarios would be very specific and would be one of the United Nations Environment Programme's major contributions to the World Summit. As part of the GEO process, attention was also being focused on the fact that priority concerns were not being integrated into general policy.

53. The GEO process had identified a number of areas of priority concern for the Caribbean subregion: the atmosphere, including climate change and its impact; the scarcity of fresh water and its declining quality; the degradation of coastal zones and marine ecosystems; urbanization and waste management; and the increasing frequency and impacts of natural disasters. In conjunction with the priority concerns, it had identified some of the major causes of environmental degradation in the subregion, which included the poverty of a majority of the population and excessive consumption by a minority; unsustainable environmental management; and unplanned urban expansion. The Regional Coordinator emphasized the importance of selecting a limited number of indicators as inputs for an accurate assessment of the progress made. The data they provided could then be used as the basis for the extrapolation of where the world would be at a specified point in the future if it continued to follow the current development path and where it would be under a policy reform scenario providing for improved stewardship.

54. The Director and Representative of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP said that the Caribbean environment was highly vulnerable to disasters due to a combination of social, economic and natural phenomena. It was possible to mitigate that vulnerability, but in order to do so the subregion would have to increase its economic growth rate based on greater value added rather than simply the extraction of its natural resources, thereby turning the market into a tool for achieving sustainable development. An increase in official development assistance was also needed since, although ODA requirements had been set at 0.7% of GDP at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, it had not only failed to reach that target but had actually declined since that time.

55. The crucial equation for the achievement of sustainability entailed determining the nature of the relationship between the environment and trade, achieving adequate growth, boosting exports, allocating more resources for social expenditure, augmenting the level of value added, securing more official development assistance and increasing private investment. It was also important to reduce capital volatility and ensure that the commitments assumed by developed countries under Agenda 21 and the Kyoto Protocol were honoured.

56. In the general discussion that followed the presentations, delegations were unanimous in commending the various agencies on the high quality and usefulness of the material presented. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which was coordinating interregional efforts at the request of the Commission on Sustainable Development, suggested that it would be very helpful if the Caribbean subregion could send a representative to the preparatory meeting for the Pacific region to be held in September 2001 so that the small island developing States could coordinate their positions prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

57. A number of delegations addressed issues dealt with in the presentations that were of vital interest to the countries of the subregion. Special emphasis was placed on the particular vulnerability of the Caribbean countries to the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters; and on the health aspects of sustainable development.

58. The Interregional Adviser of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs informed the participants that, within the framework of the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and in accordance with a decision adopted at the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an intraregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States would be held in Singapore in January 2002 under the auspices of the Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At that meeting, the participants would complete the final stage of the examination and identification of issues, priorities and challenges relating to Agenda 21 within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, together with the incorporation of the various outputs of subregional meetings in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Chairman of AOSIS would inform all member States about the logistics for the meeting through their missions in New York and had invited the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Unit to serve as a depository for the country reports. In that connection, the Interregional Adviser urged the delegations to finalize their national processes so that their country reports could be completed before the meeting in Singapore.

## **E. CONCLUSIONS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE MEETING**

Identification of new and emerging issues of critical importance to the Caribbean subregion within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of Agenda 21, and consideration of proposals for presentation to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

59. New and emerging issues of critical importance to the Caribbean subregion within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and Agenda 21 were identified in the course of the discussions regarding agenda item 4. The participants adopted a number of proposals which were then set forth in a document entitled "Contribution of the Caribbean subregion to the regional preparatory process leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (see annex 1). In view of the fact that the document had been prepared without the inputs from all the country reports, since so few had been completed, the view was expressed that further contributions might well be forthcoming.

Report of the panel of civil society organizations (agenda item 6)

60. In the course of the closing session, a report was presented on the proceedings of the panel of civil society organizations which had met concurrently. The following declaration was issued at the conclusion of the meeting:

“The organizations participating in the civil society panel constituted as part of this Caribbean subregional meeting recognize that different approaches are taken to the concept of civil society and different meanings attached to it which have to be respected. They agree that every effort has to be made to remove the real causes of the current unsustainability of the development process and that more practical results need to be achieved, the first step being to encourage an analysis of how to go about meeting the needs identified by communities. They consider it essential to overcome unethical approaches and individual interests that manifest themselves in globalization processes, the disproportionate role played by the market and consumption in the economies of our countries, and the poverty that undermines our efforts to build a sustainable form of development.

“Consequently, there is an urgent need for governments to develop concrete practices and genuine political will to support sustainable development and for instruments and mechanisms to be developed that will make it possible to measure the actual status of our countries in terms of sustainability.

“Those of us participating in the meeting see a great need not only to consolidate and expand existing opportunities for participation, such as those provided by national councils for sustainable development, but also to introduce other mechanisms and instruments that can have a greater impact on grassroots citizen participation by encouraging greater interaction among all stakeholders. We recognize that difficulties in obtaining financial resources and the lack of such resources hinder greater and better participation by civil society in the design and implementation of national, regional and global environmental agendas.

“Civil society organizations recognize the need to increase South-South cooperation through the creation of alliances and systematic participation mechanisms for the Caribbean islands. They believe that it is necessary to replicate and share successful initiatives relating to the sustainable development of our communities, and they appreciate the need to promote cooperation and dialogue with Governments in working towards a common goal: a better quality of life and the achievement of sustainable development.”

Adoption of proposals and recommendations for submission to the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (agenda item 7)

61. The participants in the meeting approved the document entitled “Contribution of the Caribbean subregion to the regional preparatory process leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development”, which figures as annex 1 to this report.





## Annex 1

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION  
TO THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY PROCESS LEADING TO THE  
WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The representatives of the Governments participating in the Subregional Preparatory Meeting of the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming* the objectives of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and Agenda 21; the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action); and the decisions reached at the forums of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and Caribbean, the geographical region to which they belong,

*Recognizing* that the Barbados Programme of Action represents a concrete expression of Agenda 21 and that both embody a number of principles which provide the international community with clear guidelines for the promotion of the sustainable development of small island developing States,

*Aware* that the Caribbean constitutes an important geographical, economic, environmental and cultural unity possessing great human, natural and cultural wealth, which in turn constitutes a crucial part of world heritage,

*Aware also* that the process of analysis and evaluation of Agenda 21 with a view to the World Summit on Sustainable Development is important for the fulfillment of commitments and for the implementation of measures previously agreed upon by the international community at the Rio Conference in order to mitigate and overcome the urgent problems existing in relation to sustainable development,

*Recognizing* in a categorical manner that there is a need for new international measures in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as set forth in the Rio Declaration, and *reaffirming* the view that global and regional challenges concerning sustainable development require the countries of our region to take a unified position,

*Reaffirming* the importance that the small island developing States of the Caribbean subregion attach to their active participation in the preparatory meetings, as well as in other meetings and in the adoption of measures as part of the process leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

1. *Agree* to submit the following priorities and issues for consideration at the Regional Preparatory Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001 as part of the preparatory process leading to the World Summit;

2. *Resolve* to continue consolidating national policies on sustainable development, strengthening the relevant institutions, improving legislative instruments, hastening the integration of the environmental dimension in economic and social development processes, using environmentally-friendly technologies, promoting human resource development and constantly broadening the participation of citizens and all major groups of society;

3. *Recognize* that all major groups in society, including the private sector and local authorities, have a role to play in bringing about sustainable development, economic growth and the eradication of poverty. Various groups, especially young people, also play an active role in promoting environmental values and in raising the awareness of all societal actors;

4. *Recognize* that globalization and trade liberalization pose new challenges and offer new opportunities. Globalization has not generated equal benefits for everyone, and developing countries have not been able to take full advantage of the opportunities it offers;

5. *Emphasize* that if the process of world trade liberalization does not take place under conditions that are conducive to changes in patterns of production and consumption and to the elimination of unequal terms of trade and the external debt of developing countries, our countries will be able to make little headway in their quest for sustainable development;

6. *Underline* the continued economic, social and environmental vulnerability of the small island developing States of the Caribbean subregion, which places constraints on the capacity of Caribbean countries to achieve sustainable development and regional economic integration;

7. *Express* concern at the increasingly negative effects of global warming caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, and *urge* all States and international organizations to work together towards negotiated and mutually beneficial solutions as a means of ensuring the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Kyoto Protocol;

8. *Express* continued concern at the deterioration of the subregion's marine and coastal ecosystems, at the continuing degradation of watersheds and the loss of biological diversity, and *direct attention* to the need to afford these areas greater consideration and allocate increased resources to them;

9. *Express grave concern* at the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters in the Caribbean, which have been catastrophic in terms of both human life and the economy, thus exacerbating our countries' vulnerability to these phenomena and reducing their capacity to alleviate and eradicate poverty;

10. *Reaffirm* the importance of reducing and mitigating disasters caused by natural phenomena, and *underline* the need for continued efforts to adopt measures aimed at reducing vulnerability and facilitating adaptation to climate change;

11. *Recommend* that the international community declare its support at the World Summit for the initiative concerning integrated management of the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development. *Recommend also* that the international community pledge assistance for the implementation of this initiative, taking into account, *inter alia*, the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its valuable role in the heritage, economic well-being and sustenance of the people of the Caribbean subregion;

12. *Underscore* the importance of assessing vulnerability and measuring progress towards sustainable development, *note* the lack of data and indicators that would permit such measurements, and *stress* the need to define a core set of data and indicators, including a vulnerability index, that will make it possible to measure progress towards sustainable development, taking into account the unique features of Caribbean countries and in keeping with Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action;

13. *Recognize* with grave concern that the international community has yet to generate an indicator of “sustainable development”. Small island developing States of the Caribbean consider that the application of the concepts of sustainable development and “vulnerability” promise to be very useful in developing instruments to guide the efforts of the relevant international institutions in their relations with these States. In this regard, it is recalled that, at the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly, it was agreed that the quantitative and analytical work on a vulnerability index for small island developing States should be concluded, preferably by the end of 2000;

14. *Recommend* that the World Summit to be held in 2002 reaffirm the commitment undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the international community agreed upon the need to make available to small island developing States “adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources in accordance with Chapter 33 of Agenda 21”, and *urge* that this commitment be fulfilled as a matter of urgency;

15. *Strongly urge* developed nations to meet their commitment to reach the target of allocating 0.7% of their gross domestic product to official development assistance, as agreed at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, and *reaffirm* the need for additional, stable and predictable flows of financial resources to permit the further implementation of national sustainable development programmes in the countries of the subregion;

16. *Strongly recommend* the wider promotion of greater understanding and acknowledgement of the interdependence of economic development, social equity and environmental protection in keeping with the concept of sustainable development, and *call for* greater integration of policies in these areas at the national, regional and international levels;

17. *Recognize further* that for sustainable development efforts to be effective, the subregion will require a healthy population, and therefore *underscore* the need to ensure that health considerations form an integral part of future development plans and processes;

18. *Resolve* to extend regional dialogue and exchange in order to strengthen intraregional cooperation and develop the necessary capacity to achieve the objective of sustainable development in the Caribbean;

19. *Agree* to accelerate the national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to request the international community as a whole to increase the flow of financial resources, the transfer of ecologically sound technologies and assistance for capacity-building, in keeping with the provisions of Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action;

20. *Reaffirm* their solidarity in the face of any type of economic action, pressure or coercion directed against countries of the subregion that exercise their legitimate right to sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities;

21. *Encourage* the generation of synergy among the various multilateral environmental agreements, given the urgent need to combine international efforts to achieve rational and integrated use of the scarce resources available and, to this end, *agree* to seek, *inter alia*, the standardization and harmonization of reporting requirements and support for effective implementation;

22. *Agree* to promote, in the framework of international forums on the environment and development, particularly in the current preparatory process leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002, the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization processes, in order to facilitate a greater flow of resources to the region and a stronger role for the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean in the international decision-making process;

23. *Express concern* about the difficulties experienced by the Caribbean countries in finalizing their national reports as part of the process leading to the World Summit, and therefore *agree* to request the urgent support of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies in order to complete their reports in advance of the Regional Preparatory Meeting to be held in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001.

## Annex 2

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States of the Commission  
Estados miembros de la Comisión****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA/ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA**Representative/Representante:

- Conrod Hunte, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations

**BARBADOS**Representative/ Representante:

- John R.A. Wilson, Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources

**BELIZE/BELICE**Representative/Representante:

- Patricia Mendoza, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources

**CUBA**Representative/Representante:

- Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin, Ministra de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegacion:

- Fabio Fajardo Moros, Vice Ministro de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
- Orlando Rey Santos, Director, Política Ambiental CITMA
- Jorge Mario García Fernández, Director del Centro de Gestión y Educación Ambiental del CITMA
- Ramiro León Torras, Especialista del Ministerio de Inversión Extranjera y Colaboración Económica (MINVEC)
- María Caridad Balaguer Labrada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Jorge Luis Fernández Chamero, Director, Colaboración Internacional del CITMA
- Modesto Fernández, Especialista, Dirección Política Ambiental CITMA
- Antonio Perera Puga, Director del Centro Nacional de Áreas Protegidas
- Silvia Álvarez Rousell, Directora Centro de Inspección y Control Ambiental del CITMA
- Araceli Mateo de Acosta, Especialista Colaboración Internacional del CITMA
- Gricel Acosta Acosta, Especialista, Dirección Colaboración Internacional del CITMA
- Jorge Luis Hernández, Jefe de Protocolo del CITMA
- Héctor Conde Almeida, Especialista, Dirección Colaboración Internacional del CITMA

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC/REPUBLICA DOMINICANA**Representative/Representante:

- Rafael Báez Pérez, Embajador de República Dominicana en Cuba

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación:

- Ana Laura Guzmán, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de República Dominicana en Cuba

## **GRENADA/GRANADA**

### Representative/ Representante:

- Rickie Morain, Economist 1, Projects and Development Corporation Unit of the Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance

## **GUYANA**

### Representative/Representante:

- Sharifah Razack, Senior Environmental Officer, Environmental Protection Agency

## **JAMAICA**

### Representative/Representante:

- Leonie Barnaby, Senior Director, Environmental Management Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land and Environment

### Delegation members/Miembros de la delegacion:

- Diane Quarless, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
- Lemuel Brady, Director, Environmental Health, Ministry of Health

## **SAINT LUCIA/SANTA LUCIA**

### Representative/Representante:

- Christopher Corbin, Head of Delegation, Senior Sustainable Development and Environment Officer, Sustainable Development and Environment Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development, Environment and Housing

### Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación:

- Shirlene Simmons, Sustainable Development and Environment Officer, Sustainable Development and Environment Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development, Environment and Housing

## **SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS/SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS**

### Representative/Representante:

- Shirley Skerritt-Andrew, Project Officer, Ministry of Finance, Development and Planning

## **SURINAME**

### Representative/Representante:

- Pearl Arthur Jules Antonius, Policy Advisor at the Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment

## **B. Associate members Miembros asociados**

## **MONTSERRAT**

### Representative/Representante:

- Rachael A. Ryan, Senior Assistant Secretary, Office of the Chief Minister

**NETHERLANDS ANTILLES/ANTILLAS NEERLANDESES**

Representative/ Representante:

- Joelle de Jong-Mercelina, Head, Division International and Regional Organizations, Foreign Affairs Office

**UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS/ISLAS VÍRGENES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS**

Representative/Representante:

- Carlyle Corbin, Minister of State for External Affairs, Office of the Governor

**C. United Nations Secretariat  
Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)/ Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales

- Espen Ronneberg, Interregional Advisor for Small Island Developing States

**D. United Nations bodies  
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD )

- Anne Forrester, Resident Representative in Barbados
- Pablo Mandeville, Asesor Principal, Dirección Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
- Jafet Enriquez, Jefe, Unidad de Programa

**E. Specialized agencies  
Organismos especializados**

World Bank/Banco Mundial/Banque mondiale

- Teresa Serra, Gerente Sectorial, Medio Ambiente

World Health Organization (WHO)/Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)

- Harry Philippeaux, Environmental Health Advisor
- Patricio Yepez, Representante en Cuba

World Meteorological Organizations (WMO)/Organización Mundial de Meteorología (OMM)

- Steve Pollonais, Representative of the Secretary-General of WMO

**F. Other intergovernmental organizations  
Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)/Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)

- Anya Thomas, Project Officer, Sustainable Development

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)/Banco de Desarrollo del Caribe

- Clairvair Squires, Deputy Director (Social Development), Projects Department

European Union/Unión Europea

- Kurt Leiseder, Asesor de Cooperación

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- Vasantha Chase, Head of Unit, Natural Resources Management Unit

**G. Non-governmental organizations  
Organizaciones no gubernamentales**

Academia de Ciencias de Cuba

- Sergio Jorge Pastrana, Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

- Lidia Turner Martí, Presidenta

Brigadas Técnicas Juveniles

- José Manuel Guzmán Menéndez

Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA)

- Ijahnya Christian, Board Member

COHPEDA

- Calixte Aldrin, Secrétaire Exécutif

Comités de Defensa de la Revolución

- María Cecilia Giró Mas, Directora, Departamento Economía y Servicios

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

- Rubén Bao Chenique, Representante del CIC-PECAP

Consejo de la Tierra

- Susan Bowyer, Asistente del Programa de Consejos Nacionales para el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Robert Kerr, Representative Civil Society, Board of the National Environmental Societies

CUBASOLAR

- Eliseo Gavilán, Vicepresidente



Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

- Reina Muro, Funcionaria

Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre

- Rosa María Cartoya Olivares, Directora de Programas Ambientales
- Marla Muñoz, Especialista

Grupo de Ecología y Medio Ambiente

- Enrique Javier Dalmau Hevia

Habitat Cuba

- María de los Angeles Lorenzo, Coordinadora Programa Desarrollo y Uso del Bambú

Pro Natura

- Arlette Pichardo, Directora Ejecutiva

Pro Naturaleza

- María Elena Ibarra Martín, Presidenta

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme/ Programa Regional del Pacífico Sur para el Medio Ambiente

- Gerald Haddon Miles, Scientist

#### **H. Special guests Invitados especiales**

#### **INDONESIA**

Representative/Representante:

- Yonatri Rilmania, Third Secretary in the Indonesian Mission in New York

#### **I. Other guests Otros invitados**

Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)

- Amoy Lum Kong, Acting Deputy Director

**J. Secretariat  
Secretaría**

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)**

- Reynaldo F. Bajraj, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto
- Daniel S. Blanchard, Secretario de la Comisión
- Alicia Bárcena, Chief, División de Medio Ambiente y Asentamientos Humanos
- Gerardo Mendoza, Evaluation Officer, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión

**ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean/ Sede Subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe**

- Len Ishmael, Chief, Sede Subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe
- Arthur Gray, Regional Adviser

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP /Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)**

**Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)/ Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (ORPALC)**

- Ricardo Arsenio Sánchez Sosa, Director and Regional Representative
- Luc St. Pierre, CEPNET Programme Officer
- Miriam Urzúa
- Kaveh Zahedi
- José Luis Samaniego, Consultor