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

*Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean*

**PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME  
BIENNIUM 2002 – 2003**

(By subject area)





## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	1
A. CATEGORIES OF OUTPUTS.....	3
Subject area 12.1: Economic policies and economic development .....	3
Subject area 12.2: Regional cooperation and integration into the International economy .....	4
Subject area 12.3: Statistics and information management for development .....	6
Subject area 12.4: Sustainable development in the Caribbean .....	8
Subject area 12.5: Application of science and technology to Caribbean development .....	11
Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean.....	12
B. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND LIAISON.....	16
C. USERS AND ANTICIPATED USERS OF OUTPUTS.....	16



## **PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2002-2003 BIENNIUM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the past decade, most Caribbean countries have managed to achieve some measure of macroeconomic stability and economic diversification of their economies. However, while that stability remains fragile and in need of further consolidation, many Caribbean States are continuing to focus on further social and institutional reforms in their efforts to achieve more rapid social and economic progress in an increasingly liberalized world economy. At the same time, multisectoral programmes are being implemented in many countries to ensure the sustainability of development in these mostly small island States.

In an effort to ensure sustainability of these programmes, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional programme for the Caribbean, during the biennium 2002– 2003, will continue to guide and support its member countries' efforts to improve the quality of life of their people. The main objective of the activities will be to support the actions of Caribbean countries to adjust their economic and social policies to an increasingly integrated world economy, so as to achieve better rates of economic growth and reduced unemployment and poverty.

The subprogramme will continue to administer its programme of work with a view to assisting countries in their development process, in general, through the analysis of their economic and social policies. This will be accomplished through regular assessment of their economic performance, including the progress made in their economic diversification programmes and their trade (including trade in services) and investment linkages among themselves and with the wider world. These activities will seek to provide a greater understanding of international trade and financial issues and their implications for the Caribbean and the formulation of appropriate policies to respond to the challenges created by international trade and economic developments. These will include the consolidation of economic integration in the Caribbean, including the ongoing implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the participation of Caribbean countries in the trade liberalization programmes of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In the context of the fundamental decisions expected to be taken at the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the establishment of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) with respect to, inter alia, the orientation of the organization for the new millennium, the subprogramme will seek to enhance the understanding and application of policy instruments and tools to further the implementation of sustainable development in the Caribbean. As such, it is expected that the next session in 2002 will offer an opportunity for a review of the achievements, so far made, and for the introduction of any adjustments that might be deemed necessary. The review will also be fuelled by developments in the wider hemispheric and wider international community, as the region endeavours to exploit every opportunity to advance its developmental interests.

The rapidity of change in the economic and social environment has generated a greater demand for data; however, the present structures can no longer deliver what is required. In this regard, the subprogramme proposes to contribute to regional developments through the design of statistical information systems, which will be geared towards the promotion of a more intensive use of the new technologies, with a view to making more information accessible. To this extent, it will collaborate with other agencies, where possible, to create the increased access possibility to data. The subprogramme will continue to deliver technical assistance and oversee projects in statistics to ensure that member countries modify their stance on the importance of statistics and information in the planning process.

During the biennium, the subprogramme will continue to implement its programme on capacity building and institutional strengthening, geared towards the development of the scientific and technological capacity in the subregion. Activities will include the examination of the relationship between microeconomic policies, competitiveness and production as they impact on the developmental process, including the potential contribution of transfer of technology to the sustainable development of the member countries and the promotion of the systematic inclusion of new technology in the production process of Caribbean countries, to increase the productivity of their manufacturing and agro-industrial sector.

Caribbean countries will be provided with support aimed at developing programmes to facilitate the formulation of policies that will address the causes and consequences of various social issues, such as poverty, ageing, early parenthood, gender mainstreaming and high levels of marginalization leading to drug abuse, crime and violence. It will continue to support the work of the member countries through the promotion, organization and coordination of follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW).

At the regional level, such organizations like the ACS, CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have plotted significant steps to entrench their presence in the regional and wider economy. Given the significant degree of overlap in the membership of these organizations, relations of cooperation, already established, can be expected to achieve greater salience as joint efforts are made to contribute to the development of the region.

Finally, issues on the environment and sustainable development will continue to receive the highest priority in the work of the secretariat. In this respect, the secretariat is expected to continue to serve as the interim secretariat of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and to support the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, which will be reviewed in 2002. The programme of work earmarked to be accomplished during the biennium 2002-2003 will include an examination of issues related to land use and ownership patterns to assist the countries in the formulation of appropriate land use policies. During this period, the subprogramme will continue to support the development of social, economic and environmental indicators for sustainable development and provide assistance to member States in integrating these indicators into the national development planning apparatus. The secretariat will also continue to provide assistance in the assessment of the socio-economic effects of natural disasters, which occur frequently in the Caribbean.

## A. CATEGORIES OF OUTPUTS

### *Subject area 12.1: Economic policies and economic development*

#### 1. Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings

##### (a) Documentation

- i. Report of meeting of experts to review and evaluate the role of economic policies in the economic performance of Caribbean countries;
- ii. Report of an expert meeting to examine the importance of the informal sector in selected Caribbean economies.

##### (b) Ad-hoc expert group and related preparatory works

- i. Meeting of experts to review and evaluate the role of economic policies in the economic performance of Caribbean countries;
- ii. Meeting of experts to examine the importance of the informal sector in selected Caribbean economies.

#### 2. Documents and publications

##### Non recurrent publications

- i. Report on the economic performance of Caribbean countries (one report each year);
- ii. Document analysing economic policies of selected Caribbean countries in a liberalised financial and trading environment and the effects of these policies on growth, employment and poverty reduction;
- iii. Document analysing the evolution of income distribution in the Caribbean and the implications of that evolution for economic policies;
- iv. A study on the reforms of social security systems in the Caribbean;
- v. A study on exchange rate policies in the Caribbean;
- vi. A paper examining the importance of the informal sector in selected Caribbean economies.

### 3. **Operational activities**

Provision of technical assistance, upon request, in areas relating to world economic trends and their regional and national policy implications, and to economic events in the Caribbean and their macro-economic policy impacts.

#### ***Subject area 12.2: Regional cooperation and integration into the international economy***

### 1. **Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings**

#### (a) Documentation

- i. Report of the Ministerial Meeting of the CDCC;
- ii. Report of the Technical Meeting of the CDCC;
- iii. Report of a meeting of experts to review the implications for the Caribbean of developments in trade and finance including international agreements.

#### (b) Substantive services

A session of the CDCC, including the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation, and a meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee.

#### (c) Ad-hoc expert group and related preparatory works

Meeting of experts to review the implications for the Caribbean of developments in trade and finance, including international agreements.

### 2. **Documents and publications**

#### Non-recurrent publications

- i. Document analysing the performance of intra-CDCC trade and investment;
- ii. Document reviewing and analysing trade and investment flows between the Caribbean and the rest of the world;
- iii. A paper on global economic developments and implications for the Caribbean (one report each year);



- iv. Document reviewing the progress of international trade negotiations at the WTO level and implications for Caribbean trade policies;
- v. Document reviewing the progress made in the negotiations of the FTAA and implications for the Caribbean;
- vi. Study on investment in the Caribbean and its contribution to economic and social development;
- vii. Study on the services sector of selected Caribbean countries;
- viii. Preparation of a study on a specific topic aimed at strengthening cooperation among CDCC countries;
- ix. Study on the possibilities of developing trade and investment linkages between the NICCs and the rest of CDCC countries;
- x. A study on free trade and the environment.

### **3. Information materials and services**

- i. Publication of the quarterly bulletin “**Focus**” (“UN Focus on the Caribbean”, covering, essentially, the activities of the CDCC);
- ii. Preparation and circulation to member States of the CDCC and other relevant entities of studies/briefing notes on selected trade issues in the context of the negotiations, present as well as envisaged;
- iii. Preparation, on an ad hoc basis, of Press Releases to cover the more salient activities of the organization;
- iv. Provision of information packages to Caribbean overseas missions on an ad hoc basis.

### **4. Operational activities**

#### **(a) Advisory services**

- i. Preparation of studies/briefing documents on trade issues in the context of the establishment of an FTAA and related aspects, such as developments taking place under the auspices of the WTO;
- ii. Provision of technical assistance, at the request of member States in the context of integration and regional cooperation, to the ACS, CARICOM, the OECS and the FTAA Working Groups;

iii. Technical assistance on issues related to trade and investment will be provided to Caribbean countries, upon request.

(b) Group training including seminars, workshops and specialized courses

Convening of seminars/workshops on hemispheric and international trade issues in the context of the establishment of an FTAA and the new and still evolving international trade regime. (XB)

***Subject area 12.3: Statistics and information management for development***

**1. Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings**

(a) Documentation

- i. Report of the meeting of experts to review the effectiveness of statistical offices in the Caribbean and to discuss ways of changing them to higher levels of performance and to form an action plan for the elevation of the output and status of the national statistical offices;
- ii. Report of the meeting of experts to consider issues related to promoting entrepreneurship among Caribbean youth through the use of information technology.

(b) Technical services

Support to activities of the Consultative Committee on Caribbean Regional Information Systems (CCCRIS).

(c) Ad-hoc expert group and related preparatory works

- i. Meeting of experts to review the effectiveness of statistical offices in the Caribbean and to discuss ways of changing them to higher levels of performance and to form an action plan for the elevation of the output and status of the national statistical offices;
- ii. Meeting of experts to consider issues related to promoting entrepreneurship among Caribbean youth through the use of information technology (XB).

## 2. Documents and publications

### (a) Recurrent publications

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

### (b) Non-recurrent publications

- i. Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts (one issue during the biennium with equivalent electronic publication);
- ii. A study on mechanisms for promoting entrepreneurship among Caribbean youth through the use of information technology;
- iii. A document reviewing the effectiveness of statistical services of the member countries;
- iv. A paper on the minimization of duplication in data collection and the design of data mapping and collection instruments for use at the national level;
- v. Review of information policies in selected Caribbean countries.

### (c) Technical material

- i. Statistical summary and notes for the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean (two issues during the biennium);
- ii. Maintenance of existing databases and design and creation of new databases on new subject matter areas;
- iii. Maintenance of networks of data producers to facilitate information interchange;
- iv. Preparation of bibliographic abstracts of major statistical publications ( one issue for the biennium);
- v. Expansion of web site and virtual library.

## 3. Information materials and services

12 bimonthly issues of the Current Awareness (online).

#### 4. Operational activities

##### (a) Advisory services

- i. Provision of technical cooperation services in connection with the organization of statistical services, minimisation of duplication of data collection effort, and the design of data mapping and collection instruments for use at national level;
- ii. Provision of technical assistance, upon request from member countries, in the field of information management.

##### (b) Group training including seminars, workshops and specialized courses

- i. Training workshop for information specialists and librarians in the development and maintenance of web sites;
- ii. Workshop/seminar to bring or strengthen management skills in the possession of Directors of Statistics.

#### 5. Intermediate activities

- i. Statistical support for inter-unit activities in Port of Spain, as well as response to requests for assistance in information technology support;
- ii. Collecting data and reviews from countries prior to writing the country notes for submission to Santiago;
- iii. Response to requests for assistance in substantive areas of statistics.

### ***Subject area 12.4: Sustainable development in the Caribbean***

#### 1. Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings

##### (a) Documentation

- i. Reports of the Joint Meetings of the SIDS Bureau and the Inter-Agency Consultative Group;
- ii. Report of the Third Caribbean Ministerial meeting on the implementation of the SIDS POA and to chart the path in both technical and political terms to the second review by the General Assembly.

(b) Substantive services

Third Caribbean ministerial meeting on the implementation of the SIDS POA and to chart the path in both technical and political terms to the second review by the General Assembly.

(c) Technical services

Joint Meetings of the SIDS Bureau and the IACG.

**2. Documents and publications**(a) Non-recurrent publications

- i. A report presenting an update on the implementation of the SIDS-POA: A Caribbean Perspective;
- ii. Preparation of a study on issues related to sustainable development in the Caribbean;
- iii. An evaluation of the role of tourism activities in the development of tourism in the Caribbean;
- iv. A study on the impact of tourism incentive legislation in sustainable tourism;
- v. Environment and economics. Lessons of the Caribbean.

(b) Technical materials

- i. Maintaining and upgrading of the SIDS project database;
- ii. Maintaining the Caribbean sustainable development segment of the ECLAC Port of Spain website;
- iii. National and regional reports on planned and ongoing projects related to the SIDS/POA.

**3. Information materials and services**

- i. Provision of information packages across the region in the interest of a more general public awareness; to other SIDS regions, to relevant regional and international organizations, researchers and academic institutions. The convening of briefing sessions with Caribbean overseas missions and the issue of Press Releases;

- ii. Preparation of Press Releases, briefing sessions for Caribbean overseas missions, provision of information to member States, regional organizations, researchers, etc.

#### 4. **Operational activities**

##### (a) Advisory services

Provision of advice to member States on the full range of issues relating to the further implementation of the SIDS POA, including the development of national development strategies, the conceptualization of approaches to specific problem areas, the formulation of project proposals and the identification of potential sources of funding.

##### (b) Group training including seminars, workshops and specialized courses

Seminar/Workshop on the development of national environmental strategies/ project preparation/the application of a vulnerability index/economic instruments/ the valuation of environmental services/environmental impact assessment/disaster mitigation and rehabilitation. (XB)

##### (c) Project development

Implementation of extrabudgetary activities will be the main activities scheduled for this period. Project proposals that are already in progress which may include environmental economics, marine base tourism and sustainable development indicators.

#### 5. **Intermediate activities**

- i. Collaboration with other agencies (e.g. the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG) towards the achievement of regional objectives, specifically, the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and related decisions in multilateral forums;
- ii. Collaboration with other regional agencies in the context of the implementation of the SIDS POA and related instruments.

***Subject Area 12.5: Application of science and technology to Caribbean development***

**1. Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings**

(a) Documentation

Report on meeting of ministers responsible for science and technology

(b) Substantive services

Meeting of ministers responsible for science and technology to review: (i) progress of technology transfer and (ii) the technological dimensions of the SIDS POA and policy implications for the integration and application of new technologies in the region.

(c) Ad-hoc expert group and related preparatory works

Expert group meeting on the use of science and technology indicators

**2. Documents and publications**

(a) Non-recurrent publications

- i. The development of science and technology indicators (with particular reference to very small States) as a tool for economic development;
- ii. An analysis of the effect of biotechnology and new technologies in the development process, with particular reference to agriculture and health;
- iii. A review of the introduction and application of information technology in the region and its impact on human resource and scientific and technological development;
- iv. A review of energy policies and the impediments to introduction of new and renewable energy sources in the region;
- v. A comparative study of technology and industrial policy in the Caribbean and its impact on development at the national level.

(b) Technical materials

Manual on the methodology for the development of science and technology indicators.

### 3. Operational activities

#### (a) Advisory services

- i. Provision of technical assistance to requesting member governments, NGOs and intergovernmental agencies in connection with the design and application of policy instruments for sustainable development;
- ii. Provide technical advisory services as member of technical advisory committees.

#### (b) Group training including seminars, workshops and specialized courses

- i. A workshop on the analysis of technology transfer and its role in the promotion of innovation and competitiveness with particular emphasis on small and medium sized enterprise (SMEs);
- ii. The hosting of two training workshops on the preparation and development of science popularisation for the electronic media, targeted for national and regional audiences.

### *Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean*

#### 1. Organization of services to intergovernmental meetings

##### (a) Documentation

- i. Report of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Women to analyse the integration of women into the Caribbean development process and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- ii. Report of the inter-agency meeting with United Nations and regional agencies to facilitate cooperation with regard to programme plans;
- iii. Report of the meeting of experts on the enforcement of social and economic rights of women in the Caribbean subregion;
- iv. Report of the meeting of experts on the impact of Caribbean gender socialisation practices within State institutions on violence against women;
- v. Report of the intergovernmental meeting to evaluate the progress made in implementing national plans of action for the elimination of poverty, to be held as part of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;



- vi. Report of the intergovernmental meeting to evaluate the progress made in relation to the International Conference on Population and Development;
- vii. Report of the meeting of experts to examine the problems affecting social development programmes in the countries in the subregion;
- viii. Report of the meeting of experts to analyse questions relating to the application of the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development.

(b) Substantive services

- i. An intergovernmental meeting to evaluate the progress made in implementing national plans of action for the elimination of poverty, to be held as part of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;
- ii. An intergovernmental meeting to evaluate the progress made in relation to the International Conference on Population and Development;
- iii. The Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Women to analyse the integration of women into the Caribbean development process and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

(c) Technical services

Inter-agency meeting with United Nations and regional agencies to facilitate cooperation with regard to programme plans.

(d) Ad-hoc expert group and related preparatory works

- i. A meeting of experts on the enforcement of social and economic rights of women in the Caribbean subregion;
- ii. A meeting of experts on the impact of Caribbean gender socialisation practices within State institutions on violence against women;
- iii. A meeting of experts to examine the problems affecting social development programmes in the countries in the subregion; (XB)
- iv. A meeting of experts to analyse questions relating to the application of the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development;.(XB)

## 2. Documents and publications

### (a) Non-recurrent publications

- i. A review of the application of the Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development and its follow-up in the Caribbean;
- ii. A study on aspects of social development relevant to the Caribbean;
- iii. A study on demographic trends, to include an overview of population and development indicators used by the Caribbean countries;
- iv. A study on the use of socio-demographic information in the design of policies and programmes to include a compendium of social and demographic statistics on the Caribbean;
- v. A study on the social impact of globalisation;
- vi. Returning national and the socio-economic policy implications;
- vii. Intraregional movement of labour and implications for policy;
- viii. A study on the enforcement of social and economic rights of women in the Caribbean;
- ix. A study on Caribbean gender socialisation practices and violence against women;
- x. Reports of activities and substantive documentation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Women;
- xi. A training module on economic literacy for women;
- xii. A review of the application of the programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development and its follow-up in the Caribbean.

### (b) Technical material

- i. Maintenance upgrading and expansion of the subregion's socio-demographic database;
- ii. Updating and expansion of the database on women and development in the Caribbean, to include information on gender equity.

### 3. Information materials and services

- i. Publication of a quarterly bulletin entitled “Caribbean Action on Population and Development”; (XB)
- ii. Publication of a bi-annual bulletin entitled “Caribbean Action on Gender Equity, Development and Peace”.

### 4. Operational activities

#### (a) Advisory services

- i. Provision of technical assistance to requesting member countries and national and subregional agencies and institutions in connection with the evaluation and analysis of census data, the design and implementation of population policies and the promotion of social development and social planning;
- ii. Provision of technical assistance to requesting member countries and national and subregional agencies and institutions, including such assistance in connection with the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; reporting on State compliance with the Women’s Convention and the promotion of gender mainstreaming.

#### (b) Group training including seminars, workshops, and specialized courses

- i. Training seminar in the use of social data for policy formulation in the region;
- ii. A training seminar for national machineries for women in the formulation and implementation of economic literacy programmes for women.

#### (c) Advisory services

- i. Group training including seminars, workshops, and specialized courses.

## **B. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND LIAISON**

Collaboration will be maintained with various bodies of the United Nations system within the subregion and at Headquarters, as well as with the specialized bodies of the United Nations at the subregional level, in particular, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the coordination of activities and issues relating to work of the secretariat. These activities will be undertaken in cooperation with the respective ministries of Caribbean countries, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the OECS, ACS, WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and other relevant regional and international organizations

## **C. USERS AND ANTICIPATED USERS OF OUTPUTS**

The users of the outputs of this subject area will mainly be the national authorities responsible for economic management in the Caribbean, research institutions and subregional and international organizations.



