



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Technical Meeting on the Caribbean Millennium
Development Goals Report
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
24 – 25 June 2010

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**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE 2010 CARIBBEAN
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT**

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A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since the General Assembly, at the high-level segment during the sixty-fifth session, will consider the Millennium Development Goals as well as the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy), the report should highlight the links between those two global commitments. The report should also reflect the importance of the governance and the human rights-based approach to enable attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean.
2. The report should be prepared in line with the recommendation by the United Nations Statistics Division at the forty-first session of the Statistical Commission that national data be used as the official source of country data. Issues of data availability and accessibility in many countries of the Caribbean were a concern. Country representatives agreed to provide updated tables to the secretariat in cases where figures in the draft regional report were inconsistent with national data.
3. Data should be disaggregated by sex, as well as by other significant variables, as necessary. To improve understanding of some of the indicators in the report (for example, gender parity in education), the methodology for calculating these figures should be footnoted.
4. The report should also include text boxes that highlight country-specific best practices and achievements.
5. To address the issue of data gaps, the use of qualitative data in cases where quantitative data is inadequate or unavailable was proposed. To address the issue of data comparability, indicators based on regional aggregates could be constructed. Rapid impact assessments, especially in cases of natural and man-made disasters, could also be a way to collect data instead of time-consuming surveys.
6. The impact of the global economic crisis on employment may have adversely affected progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 1 on the eradication of poverty and hunger in the Caribbean. Purchasing power parities, instead of poverty lines, could be used to monitor progress made in addressing this Goal. ILO agreed to provide data on labour market characteristics for inclusion in the report. UNDP agreed to assist preparation of a section on the financial crisis, gender dynamics and unemployment.
7. Early initiation into sexual activity was a cross-cutting issue which had a significant impact on the attainment of the Goals. Issues such as teenage pregnancy underscored the need for advocacy and proper health and family-life education.
8. The promotion of condom use as a prevention strategy for HIV/AIDS could be reflected under Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The connection between the legality of alternative sexual orientations, HIV/AIDS prevalence and other sexually transmitted infections should be reflected.
9. Since countries in the insular Caribbean were among the most densely populated in the world, the links between population growth and environmental degradation should be noted under Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

10. The impact of mobile technologies on information and communication technology should be included under Goal 8 on developing a global partnership for development.

11. The impact of migration on children and family life as well as issues of human trafficking, remittances and involuntary returnees should be highlighted in the report. Since crime and violence now ranked higher than non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS as leading causes of death, impact of crime and violence on development should also be considered. Although data was limited, there may be a link between the mass deportation of offenders to the Caribbean and resurgence of crime. CARICOM agreed to supply data that had been compiled through their commissioned studies.

12. Results of a Millennium Development Goals costing exercise could yield estimates needed to lobbying donors for support.

13. Governments should be involved in the finalization of the regional report. The revised draft could be circulated to governments following the meeting to provide countries with an opportunity to review data and contents of the report. The draft report could also be circulated to civil society organizations since they were also key stakeholders in the process.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the Technical Meeting

14. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened a two-day technical meeting at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain, Trinidad, on 24-25 June 2010. The objective of the meeting was to review the draft Caribbean Millennium Development Goal report *Caribbean MDG achievement and prognosis: a 2010 review* and provide guidance to the Consultant in the finalization of the report.

2. Attendance

15. Representatives of the following Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee member States attended the technical meeting: Belize, Jamaica, and Suriname.

16. The following United Nations bodies were represented: the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.

17. A representative of the International Labour Organization, as specialized agency, attended the meeting.

18. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Caribbean Community, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

19. Representatives of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean were also in attendance.

3. Documentation

20. The full list of working documents for this meeting is attached at annex II.

C. AGENDA

21. The meeting followed the amended agenda as detailed below:

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Introduction of the draft 2010 Caribbean MDGs report
4. Review of the draft Caribbean MDGs report
5. Stakeholder contribution to implementation of the MDGs in the Caribbean
6. Consideration and consensus of the draft Caribbean MDGs report
7. Closure

D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

22. The technical meeting was convened within the framework of the United Nations Development Account project *Strengthening the Capacity of National Statistical Offices in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs)*.

23. The Caribbean Millennium Development Goals report assesses the progress made by countries in the subregion towards achieving the Goals 10 years after the Millennium Declaration in 2000.

24. The Officer-in-Charge of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. He reflected upon the limited progress made in the subregion with respect to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015. He identified possible factors that hindered the achievements of the set targets, including the economic and financial crisis, unemployment, international drug trafficking and the challenges of natural disasters. He noted the value of the review in identifying how much progress had been attained and the way forward. He underscored the need for a standardized format for data and meta-data collection, as well as strengthening of

institutional capacities for generating quality data as a possible means of addressing those challenges.

25. The Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean joined the Deputy Director in welcoming the participants and outlined the order of business for the meeting. She also provided background information on the process of preparing the report, stating that a review team, which provided critical technical guidance and advice to the Consultant in the preparation of the report, was formed in March 2010.

26. The Social Affairs Officer invited the Statistician at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to chair the session.

1. Adoption of the agenda

27. The provisional agenda was adopted with one amendment.

2. Introduction of the draft 2010 Caribbean MDGs report

28. The Chair introduced the consultant who was responsible for the compilation of the draft report. The Consultant gave an overview of the guidelines for the preparation of the 2010 report and provided some details of the structure of the report.

3. Review of the draft Caribbean MDGs report

29. With guidance from the consultant, the meeting proceeded with an open discussion of the full report. Comments, decisions and recommendations from the floor were recorded. The meeting followed this format for both days.

4. Closure of the meeting

30. The Deputy Director and Officer in Charge thanked the participants for their contributions and successful deliberations.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Countries

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Annex II**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Outline – Caribbean MDG Achievement and Prognosis: A 2010 Review

Government of the Republic of Suriname: MDG Progress Report 2009 – Summary

Government of the Republic of Suriname: MDG Progress Report 2009

National Report of Jamaica on Millennium Development Goals for the UN Economic and Social Council Annual and Ministerial Review, Geneva, July 2009

Outputs of the Project “Improving household surveys in the Caribbean Subregion”

Status of report per Committee Comments and Responses, June 22, 2010

What will it take to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: an international assessment?

2010 Report of progress of Caribbean countries toward Millennium Development Goals with related issues and policy recommendations. Working document, June 24-25, 2010-06-28

UNDP’s MDG Breakthrough Strategy Accelerate and Sustain MDG Progress