



United Nations

ECLAC

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

# FOCUS

Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

## WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2010

BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR GENERATING RELIABLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS TO MEASURE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN

ECLAC CONDUCTS TRAINING ON REDATAM+SP DATABASE CREATION AND ANALYSIS IN GRENADA

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

“EQUALITY IS A CENTRAL VALUE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”

- ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena



ISSUE 4 / OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

#### Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organization's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialisation include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development; while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean also functions as the secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain.

#### **MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
The Bahamas	Jamaica
Barbados	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Saint Lucia
Cuba	Saint Vincent
Dominica	and the Grenadines
Dominican Republic	Suriname
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

Anguilla
Aruba
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Turks and Caicos Islands
United States Virgin Islands

## CONTENTS

<b>World Statistics Day 2010</b>	3
<b>Building Institutional Capabilities for Generating Reliable Social, Economic and Environmental Statistics</b>	4
<b>The Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence Against Women in the Caribbean</b>	5
<b>ECLAC Conducts Training on REDATAM+SP Database Creation and Analysis in Grenada</b>	7
<b>Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean</b>	8
<b>"Equality is a Central Value of the Development Agenda"- ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena</b>	10

#### **Regular Features**

<b>Abstracts - ECLAC Publications</b>	13
<b>Recent ECLAC Publications</b>	14
<b>Upcoming Events - 1st Quarter 2011</b>	14

**FOCUS: ECLAC in the Caribbean** is a publication of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM:**

Deputy Chief	Hirohito Toda, ECLAC
Editor	Julie Ramlal, ECLAC
Copy Editor	Maureen Afoon, ECLAC
Coordinator	Johann Brathwaite, ECLAC

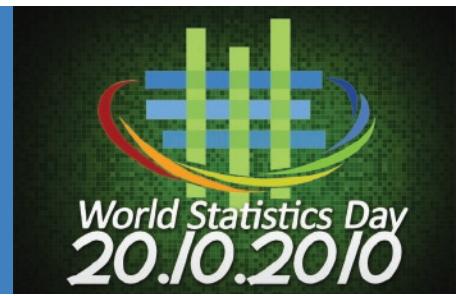
#### **Produced by ECLAC**

Printed by The Office Authority - Printing Division  
Layout by RAW Designs

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000  
Fax: (868) 623-8485  
E-mail: [registry@eclac.org](mailto:registry@eclac.org)

## WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2010



***“On this first World Statistics Day I encourage the international community to work with the United Nations to enable all countries to meet their statistical needs. Let us all acknowledge the crucial role of statistics in fulfilling our global mission of development and peace.”***

- United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, Message on World Statistics Day, 20 October 2010

**O**n Wednesday 20 October 2010, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean joined several other United Nations agencies and countries in celebrating World Statistics Day 2010.

Acknowledging that the production of reliable, timely statistics and indicators is indispensable for informed policy decisions and monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly designated 20 October as World Statistics Day by resolution A/RES/64/267<sup>1</sup>. Official statistics are data produced and disseminated by national statistics offices, as well as government departments and international and regional organizations, including the United Nations.

The theme of World Statistics Day this year is “*Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.*” The celebration highlights the importance of official statistics in modern society, as more than 100 countries and territories and 40 international agencies marked this day with special events and activities.

“Statistics are a vital tool for economic and social development, including our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. For development to succeed, we need data collection and statistical analysis of poverty levels, access to education and the incidence of disease,” stated Secretary-General

Ban Ki-moon in his Message on World Statistics Day.

ECLAC participated actively in events leading up to the day as well as events on the day itself. At ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago the commemoration of the day coincided with a “Workshop on the Governance of Statistics Systems”, attended by high-ranking government officials in charge of statistics from several countries, including Chile, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, Brazil and the United Kingdom.



*Caption  
World Statistics Day ECLAC ES*

“The provision of reliable, quality, objective and timely statistics is a basic State function and is a public good by nature,” stated ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

“Statistics play a very significant role, because they are an essential tool in support of public administration based on results. They are also instruments that ensure transparency in public decision-making and are a very important link between national and world data, based on methodologies that generate

comparable statistics at a regional and international level,” she said.

Statistics has long been recognized as an indispensable tool in the development process but, despite this recognition, there remain serious disparities in statistical capacities between and within regions and countries. While it can be argued that significant progress has been made in most countries with respect to official economic statistics, such as merchandise trade, national accounts, prices, and so on, most countries continue to struggle to produce timely and accurate social and environmental statistics.

Given the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, social and environmental statistics have skyrocketed in importance. Yet, some countries, including those in the Caribbean, continue to be regarded as ‘data poor’ with respect to the accurate and timely production of these statistics and indicators. The scope of statistics and indicators, with the accuracy and timeliness that the users require, is still not yet being produced in the Caribbean. This situation has been further aggravated by the advent of new demands that are being made for statistics on non-traditional themes, such as the environment.

However, there are other factors that have limited the region’s capacity-building efforts in statistical development. A key factor is the lack of adequate investment in statistical development. Despite the important contribution that statistical

(continued on page 12) ▶

<sup>1</sup> Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 64/267. World Statistics Day

# BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR GENERATING RELIABLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS



Caribbean countries continue to face difficulties in addressing additional demands of monitoring and measuring progress created by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and other global commitments.

**M**ember States and associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), as signatories to the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Declaration, committed formally in 2000 to pursuing and achieving the MDGs, which are a common set of goals and targets to bring all people up to minimum acceptable standards of human development by 2015.

Further strengthening of the institutional capabilities for generating reliable social, economic and environmental statistics in Caribbean countries is needed in order to achieve these Goals.

In this regard, through the development account project “Strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs)”, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is conducting number of national and regional training workshops aimed at strengthening institutional capabilities for generating and compiling reliable social, economic and environmental statistics in the Caribbean.

## Workshop on the use of the Statistical Programme Census Survey Processing System (CSPro)

The need for building/strengthening institutional capabilities for generating and compiling reliable social and economic statistics in the Caribbean had long been recognized, and NSOs had been searching for solutions to

address that major gap, particularly in the area of social statistics. In response, ECLAC has been providing active support to the countries of the region in the design of systems in the fields of economic and social statistics, provided mainly through technical assistance to individual countries in improving the operations of NSOs and in the conduct of training workshops for statisticians and policymakers.

During the period 25 October - 2 November 2010 a workshop on the use of the statistical programme Census Survey Processing System (CSPro) was held in Georgetown, Guyana. Partners included the United Nations Population Fund and the Government of Guyana, through the Guyana Bureau of Statistics.

The aim of this workshop was to equip the personnel of various ministries in Guyana to be better able to measure progress towards those goals, report on them and apply evidence-based approaches to national policymaking and planning.

Participants were introduced to the various components of the CSPro software and had opportunities to produce results and have first hand practice in using the data dictionary, CSPro language, the data entry module, batch editing and the tabulation module.



Participants of the CSPro Workshop in Guyana, 2010

Representatives of eight line ministries in Guyana, the Guyana Bureau of Statistics and the University of Guyana attended the training workshop. Participants indicated that the workshop improved their knowledge of the collection of data for surveys, storage of data in databases, and analysis of data.

## Construction of Core Environmental Indicators workshop

In December 2010, ECLAC, in collaboration with a number of partners, convened a five-day regional training workshop on the construction of core environmental indicators for the Caribbean.

The primary objective of this workshop was to develop and strengthen the national technical capacity of public officials in the production, processing, systematization and dissemination of environmental indicators in the Caribbean.

A set of national environmental indicators, along with their methodological sheets, was constructed during the workshop using official data series of participating countries.

(continued on page 11) ▶



A cross-section of participants in the Core Environmental Indicators Workshop in Port of Spain, December 2010

# THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS TO MEASURE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN



The Caribbean launch of the United Nations Secretary General's campaign UNiTE to end violence against women, held in Barbados in October 2010, was a catalyst and motivator to address the problem of access to quality statistical data to assist in the measurement of violence against women.

**C**aribbean countries experience a number of difficulties in measuring violence committed against women, including: unavailability of data, threats to data quality and difficulty harmonizing concepts across data sources.

Further, there is the issue of threats to assurances of confidentiality regarding data collection protocols, and the prospect of exposure of victims to physical harm. In most countries, the data on violence against women is dispersed and is not subject to standardized collection procedures or inter-institutional cross-checking.

The UNiTE campaign was launched with the meeting, "Strengthening Accountability and Changing Culture to End Violence against Women in the Caribbean", which recommended, inter-alia, improvements in data collection and recording, updated and strengthened legal and policy frameworks, widespread education and social communication strategies, and multi-sectoral responses for addressing violence against women.

An area that has been identified for accelerated attention is strengthening the capacity of countries to regularly and accurately measure violence against women to obtain a baseline and up-to-date diagnosis from which appropriate policies, legislation, plans and programmes could be designed to address the problem. Current and accurate data on violence against women is essential to monitor progress

in its eradication and evaluate the interventions that are implemented to address it.

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs, Santiago, convened a regional seminar to "Strengthen the Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence against Women", on 30 November and 1 December 2010.

Participants from national women/gender machineries and national statistical offices shared national information and discussed the capacity of Caribbean countries to collect data through administrative records, on the magnitude and incidence of violence against women. They were also called upon to identify strategies for collaboration among producers of data toward the design of a uniformed surveillance form for data collection.

Valid, reliable data on violence against women is needed to:

- **Measure the magnitude and impact of domestic violence and violence against women**
- **Understand the factors that increase the risk of violent victimization and perpetration**
- **Obtain knowledge about the effectiveness and efficiency of violence prevention programmes<sup>1</sup>**

The lack of an integrated information system makes it difficult to know how many times the same women have sought assistance, which kind of service was received, who provided it, where

and when it was provided and whether such visits were associated with the same act of violence or the same aggressor. This makes it impossible to trace either the history of violence affecting each woman who seeks help or the assistance that was actually received, and becomes an obstacle to the right of the victims to access justice, including ensuring proper sentencing of the perpetrators. Information systems that disaggregate data by sex, age, place of residence, type of injury and relationship of perpetrator to victim increase the ability to define the scope of the problem.

Nevertheless, for the information recorded to be useful for statistical purposes and policy programming, it must be systematically and consistently transferred to a database and periodically processed; yet this is not a widespread practice in the region. This cannot be done without a suitable institution that consolidates the information and ensures that it is statistically reliable through the implementation of a series of actions aimed at improving the procedures and methodologies used in various phases of information collection, validation, processing and analysis. Moreover, these processes should be supported by cross-sectoral coordination and consensus to ensure that the information meets the levels of standardization, comparability and coverage required for establishing indicators.

Those who work in the field as researchers, planners, activists and policymakers are aware that while population-based stand alone surveys or ▶

<sup>1</sup> St. Bernard, Godfrey- Administrative Registries and Violence Against Women- Presentation at Regional Seminar to Strengthen the use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence Against Women.

specific modules are the best source of statistical information on the magnitude, prevalence, causes, consequences and impact of violence affecting the total female population, it is the administrative records that contain the information on the number and situation of victims as well as the kind of services for which they have sought assistance in the sectors of health, social services, police and justice. This information is the one that is more likely to be used to formulate policies and programmes to prevent and sanction violence.

The seminar to strengthen the use of administrative records to measure violence against women was facilitated by Godfrey St. Bernard, a demographer with extensive research experience in the Caribbean, and explored the issues related to defining violence and further separating it into the categories of domestic violence and gender-based violence. Several data sources were highlighted and discussed, including mortality data, medical and police records, population census, victimization surveys, hotline and service providers, and justice systems.

**Three issues were identified with respect to the unavailability of data, firstly, confidentiality clauses, which are a major handicap, secondly, existing data systems do not properly permit the collection of micro level data in violent episodes and, finally, statistical classifications for legal outcomes have not been properly developed and militate against systematic data collection<sup>2</sup>.**

The threats to data quality are caused by challenges related to recording and classification of data on violent episodes, challenges related to the reporting of episodes and challenges due to data preparation and analysis. The four main units of analysis in the measurement of violence – victims, perpetrators,

incidents and domestic units – are principal targets for interventions. The need for reliable data on each target gives rise to a strong case for a central registry in each Caribbean country since the central registry enables multiple data sources to produce complementary data, and reduces the difficulty attached to reconciling data emerging from disparate sources. A central registry also facilitates solutions to the problem of double-counting.

The regional seminar reinforced the value of the central registry for addressing the problems of data unavailability, quality and management. In this regard, countries following this prescription ought to determine the most suitable location of the registry, establish conceptual clarity regarding the different forms of violence from the standpoint of the main units of analysis and be guided by some framework for engaging analysis in the context of policy prescriptions<sup>3</sup>. They are also required to consider data collection challenges and propose and implement strategies to overcome them. Another major task will be to develop a plan of action to facilitate data processing, management and dissemination.

#### Collection of data on violence against women in the Caribbean

Within the Caribbean, increased efforts to improve the collection of data on violence against women as a means of measurement of the situation for policymaking and programming is being undertaken in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, where active steps were taken to establish data collection systems with the assistance of ECLAC and UN Women. Trinidad and Tobago and the Commonwealth of Dominica are establishing central registries for the collection of data on violence against women. Capacity-building workshops have been undertaken by ECLAC, UN Women and the CARICOM Secretariat.

ECLAC promoted the development of a data collection model in 2002 for consideration by Caribbean governments. That initiative came out of a Working Group Meeting on Data Collection Systems: Domestic Violence, in 2002, constituting a principal component of a larger project entitled “Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States.”

The rationale behind that data collection protocol was that with the increase of appropriate data one could obtain profiles of victims and violators, as well as ascertain the correlation between domestic violence and other socio-economic and cultural factors. This would ultimately allow for the design of more effective and targeted social policies in the Caribbean. The protocol towards the development of an appropriate data collection system focuses on issues of definition, context, suitable data elements, data quality, resource inputs, prospective output and analytical significance<sup>4</sup>.

**Member States have been encouraged to focus more attention on data collection on violence against women in the Caribbean, through work of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission.**

In 2008, the Friends of the Chair (FoC) group was established by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session (decision 39/116) to develop the indicators and other methodological standards for implementation in national statistical systems. In 2009, the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission adopted an interim set of six statistical indicators as a ‘starting point for initiating further work on identifying the most appropriate measurements’ on violence against women.’ ■

<sup>2</sup> St. Bernard, Godfrey- Administrative Registries and Violence Against Women- Presentation at Regional Seminar to Strengthen the use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence Against Women.

<sup>3</sup> St. Bernard, Godfrey- Administrative Registries and Violence Against Women- Presentation at Regional Seminar to Strengthen the use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence Against Women.

<sup>4</sup> Gonzales, C.- 2009-Overview of the Work of ECLAC on Gender Based Violence.

## ECLAC CONDUCTS TRAINING ON REDATAM+SP DATABASE CREATION AND ANALYSIS IN GRENADA



**P**opulation and housing censuses are an invaluable source of information on housing conditions and demographic, social and economic characteristics of the general population of a country. It also provides a framework for sound, evidence-based policy formulation, good planning and development.

To assure that the maximum benefits are derived from the data generated through such a comprehensive undertaking, national statistical offices need to ensure that the data is disseminated to users in a timely manner and via an easily accessible medium. The REtrieval of DATa for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) software, which was developed primarily to facilitate the storage and dissemination of census data, is one key tool which supports the dissemination of data in diverse formats.

The software, which was developed by ECLAC Population Division (CELADE), provides users with a quick and easy means of creating, processing and accessing databases from censuses or surveys for local, regional and national analyses. It also facilitates micro data analysis via the Internet and other hardware such as CD-ROMs.

In response to a technical assistance request by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in Grenada, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, with support from the REDATAM Development Team of CELADE, conducted the week-long workshop from 6–10 December 2010 at the Bureau of Standards Conference Room in St. George's. The main objective was to develop national statistical capacity on the use of the REDATAM computer package for processing of data from Grenada's population and housing census, which is slated for May 2011, and other national surveys.

In the long term, the training is also expected to enhance the national capacity to effectively conduct data analyses on large datasets, such as the census.

The workshop also formed part of a broader thrust to develop a cadre of skilled users of the REDATAM software at the regional level.

The workshop targeted statisticians and database experts from the line ministries and other national data-producing agencies that managed databases and manipulated statistical data through computer software. Sixteen representatives of various line ministries, CSO, the National Insurance Scheme and the Royal Grenada Police Force attended the workshop. The facilitators were drawn from CELADE and ECLAC, and the technical assistance mission was funded under the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation which is managed by ECLAC.

The workshop was preceded by an opening ceremony which featured addresses from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy and Cooperatives, Timothy Antoine, Director of CSO, Halim Brizan, and the main facilitator from the CELADE office, Alejandra Silva. The focus of the workshop was to strengthen and increase capacity in the use of the REDATAM software, and participants were trained in the use of two of the core modules, namely, Create and Process. The Create module enabled the creation of databases for the REDATAM platform and would, therefore, be a tool used by programme and database managers. The Process module, on the other hand, provided analysts and researchers with a tool for processing and analysing data, running tabulations, generating indicators and mapping.

The workshop allowed for the transfer and acquisition of new skills and provided an enabling environment for networking among experts from the different government departments.

Since its development in 1982, REDATAM has been used by many Latin American and Caribbean countries for the processing and dissemination of census and survey data. REDATAM played a very important role in the 1980 and 1990 rounds of the population and housing census in many countries across the Caribbean, since the system allowed for the storage, processing and publication of timely national data.

### Regional Seminar on Data Warehousing and Dissemination

A Regional Seminar on Data Warehousing and Dissemination, which aimed to develop a roadmap for improving access to the social and poverty data produced by countries through the Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) and other social surveys, was held at the ECLAC Conference Room in Port of Spain from 22 to 24 November 2010.

The seminar was organized by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in partnership with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and ECLAC and provided a medium for introducing participants to the methods and facilities for archiving, disseminating and manipulating poverty and social data, and for sharing national experiences.

CDB, in the last three years, has been conducting a number of national and regional training workshops in Research Methods and Sampling Methodology, Data Processing and Management and

(continued on page 11) ▶

## PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN



Greater effort needs to be placed on the process of collecting data on persons with disabilities for the purpose of policy formulation. This was one of the key recommendations of a subregional meeting and capacity-building workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Caribbean, held at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

**E**CLAC, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), hosted the meeting in November 2010.

These events highlighted the provisions of the Convention, and provided updates on the situation of disability in the Caribbean as it related to statistics and policy. Representatives of 15 Member States and associate members attended the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting and workshop were to increase awareness of CRPD while urging governments to sign and ratify the Convention, as well as to review the existing situation in the Caribbean from a qualitative and quantitative perspective regarding persons living with disabilities.

Participants were exposed to new perspectives and best practices on policy approaches to disability in participating countries within the framework of the Convention. They were also given fresh insight into the activities of the United Nations system, bilateral donors and international/national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addressing issues related to disability. Furthermore, the meeting allowed participants to identify capacity-building needs for follow-up activities.

The meeting concluded by recommending the following actions:

1. More efforts and resources must be devoted to the process of collecting data on persons with disabilities for the purpose of policy

formulation.

2. Noting the importance of CRPD in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, the meeting agreed that countries should move forward with signing and ratifying the Convention.
3. Given that persons with disabilities were most vulnerable in natural disasters, countries should focus on broadening national disaster preparedness and management plans to take into account persons with disabilities, and involve persons with disabilities at all stages of the planning process as a means of ensuring that their needs were adequately addressed.
4. Countries recognized that more effort needed to be devoted to promoting awareness of disability in the Caribbean.
5. Countries noted the urgent need to address the lack of coordination among various stakeholders on

disability which included governments, non-governmental organizations, disabled persons' organizations, civil society and service providers and agreed to strengthen mechanisms.

6. Persons with disabilities should be included in national development plans.
7. Countries needed to implement legislation to protect the legal, social, political and economic rights of children with disabilities.

CRPD, which entered into force on 8 May 2008, was a breakthrough in the long struggle for the rights of persons living with disabilities. It reaffirmed that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Convention requires States to take measures to ensure accessibility of the physical environment and information and communications technology. Similarly, States have obligations in relation to raising awareness, promoting

**The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008.**

**The eight guiding principles of the Convention are:**

1. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
2. Non-discrimination
3. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
4. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
5. Equality of opportunity
6. Accessibility
7. Equality between men and women
8. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities



*Participants in the Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean Workshop, November 2010*

access to justice, ensuring personal mobility, and collecting disaggregated data relevant to the Convention. Governments and national statistical offices (NSOs) have recognized the need to collect data on disability in the Caribbean; however, previous studies conducted by ECLAC have pointed to the lack of comparable data as a major issue. While factors such as the lack of a standard definition for disability and limited financial and human resources have an impact on data collection practices, the overarching need to measure the subregion's progress towards the rights and policies of persons with disabilities still remains an area of priority.

In a study published by ECLAC in December 2009, a strong recommendation was made to conduct a follow-up study to "collect information on the availability of statistical information on persons with disability and on the implementation of legislation and policies in order to measure the commitment of governments in the Caribbean region towards the CRPD"<sup>1</sup>.

Following that recommendation, ECLAC, between June and July 2010, conducted a baseline study which comprised three questionnaires for NSOs, ministries and NGOs<sup>2</sup> in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean in an attempt to get feedback on the situation of persons with disabilities across the subregion. The results of these questionnaires were produced in two reports entitled "A Situational Analysis of the Implementation of the Convention on

*the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean Subregion*<sup>3</sup> and "Availability, Collection and Use of Data on Disability in the Caribbean Subregion"<sup>4</sup>.

**It was found that even though there was little information on disability in the Caribbean, from the 2000 census round approximately 340,363 persons reported that they had some kind of disability that limited their participation in activities.**

The data also indicated that the percentage of women with disabilities was slightly higher than that of males. Belize, Guyana and the Netherlands Antilles, as it was then called,<sup>5</sup> had the highest proportion of persons with disabilities while the lowest shares were recorded in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. The analysis also showed that there were some improvements in relation to the situation of persons with disabilities in the areas of laws and legislation, education and employment; however, more work was needed in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, accessibility and personal mobility as well as access to information and communication.

In the educational sector, most of the countries in the Caribbean subregion had both inclusive education facilities as well as separate and specialized

institutions to support young students with disabilities. Support was also given to persons with disabilities to facilitate effective education by training teachers to enable them to meet the needs of students with disabilities. However, even though persons with disabilities were likely to be enrolled in education, they tended to have lower levels of educational attainment than those without disabilities.

In the employment sector, even though supported employment, self employment and sheltered employment have been promoted in certain countries, as well as reasonable adaptations that contribute to physical accessibility of the workplace, more improvement is needed in the public sector with regards to the employment of persons with disabilities. There were also gender disparities in the proportions of disabled persons in employment and education.

With regards to accessibility and personal mobility for the blind and visually impaired and those who used wheelchairs, there was the perception from the NGOs that the current situation was extremely poor. Many were of the opinion that accessibility to the public streets, shopping areas, public facilities and public transportation were not easily accessible. Similarly, although there has been access to information and communication for persons with disabilities by providing computer literacy training and capacity-building for persons with disabilities, NGOs indicated that government websites and other information were not available

*(continued on page 10)* ►

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2009), "A Further Study on Disability in the Caribbean: Rights, Commitment, Statistical Analysis and Monitoring", (LC/CAR/L.237), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, December.

<sup>2</sup>The assessment among NGOs was limited to persons with physical disabilities and those who used wheelchairs or those who were blind or had visual impairments.

<sup>3</sup>ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2011), LC/CAR/L.280/Rev.1, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, January.

<sup>4</sup>ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2011), LC/CAR/L.283/Rev.1, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, January.

<sup>5</sup>At the time of the survey, the Netherlands Antilles were not yet dissolved into the new countries Curacao and St. Maarten.

## “EQUALITY IS A CENTRAL VALUE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”

- ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena



Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, gave a lecture on Thursday 26 November 2010 on the value of equality as a central aspect of the development agenda, which was attended by the President of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernández, and held in the Government Palace in the country's capital.

In her presentation of the document *Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails*, which was published by ECLAC at its most recent session held in May 2010 in Brazil, Ms. Bárcena spoke about the three pillars of the equality agenda proposed by ECLAC: equal rights as a basis for social covenants, a fiscal covenant with a redistributive impact and a democratic order in which development aims to reflect the will of the majority.

She also highlighted the impact of the recent international crisis on the economies of Latin America and the role to be played by the State in overcoming the problems that are still affecting the region.

Before beginning the lecture, the ECLAC Executive Secretary and the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican

Republic, Temístocles Montás, signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the training of staff working in the country's National Planning and Public Investment System (2010-2030). The ceremony was attended by President Fernández and Vice-President Rafael Alburquerque.

In her presentation, Ms. Bárcena stated that the Dominican Republic will have positive economic growth in 2010. However, she said that the economy of the Caribbean, as a whole, will shrink in 2011 because the larger nations upon which it depends will not have recovered. She expressed concern for the fact that Caribbean countries are again dependent upon exports of raw materials, rather than on the design of their own development.

She said that the development of Latin America must be reconsidered on the basis of its own reality, taking up its rightful place but without imitating any foreign economic model.

Along these lines, she recognized the long-term National Development Strategy being implemented by the Government of the Dominican Republic with the support of all political and social sectors.

Ms. Bárcena declared that the State must play an active role in development projects within the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, in conjunction with all political and social sectors, while also involving the population in the economic dynamics.

She congratulated President Fernández and his economic team for launching a proposal for the alternative democratization of the economy in the Dominican Republic, as part of the long-term National Development Strategy.

Lastly, Alicia Bárcena reaffirmed ECLAC's commitment to work on the implementation of economic development projects throughout the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. ■

► (continued from page 9)

### PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

in an accessible format for the blind and visually impaired. Additionally, the majority of NGOs felt that the situation was similar for persons using wheelchairs; it was reported that there were very few libraries accessible to this group.

These results provide evidence to the fact that despite the global and regional efforts at promoting equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities, some countries in the subregion still have not made any major advances in that direction.

The continuing need for reliable and comparable data on persons with disabilities is emphasized as one of the key aspects of monitoring the implementation of CRPD.

Article 31 requires that governments collect the appropriate statistics that would facilitate the monitoring of the Convention. In addition, the collection of the relevant disability data should complement and facilitate the

development and implementation of the appropriate national policies and programmes for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. Thus, it is with this in mind that ECLAC will continue to promote the work that encourages the rights of persons with disabilities as well as other vulnerable populations. ■



A participant makes a point during the workshop

photo courtesy Clev Smith

► (continued from page 4)

## BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR GENERATING RELIABLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

Collaborating partners in the convening of this workshop were the Statistics Division of ECLAC; the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)/Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC); and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), New York, which together were responsible for designing and delivering the substantive aspects of the training workshop.

The workshop built on a series of ECLAC courses on Statistical Methods for Building National Environmental Indicators and made use of the Handbook for Constructing Environmental Indicators recently translated into English.

The course was designed to encourage the participation of "national teams", consisting of official representatives from statistical and environmental institutions, who currently work or plan to work as part of an inter-institutional group responsible for developing a set of national environmental statistics and indicators.

Some 29 participants, from 13 Member States and three associate members of ECLAC, representing a wide cross section of ministries, such as the environment, agriculture, lands and housing, national statistical offices, energy, physical planning and tourism took part in the training.

A set of 11 common environmental indicators was selected, taking into account the Millennium Development Goal 7 indicators, the ILAC environmental indicators and the CARICOM list of environmental indicators, as well as other agreed criteria, such as regional relevance and statistical feasibility.

Participants provided very positive feedback during the evaluation of the workshop. Several countries expressed their interest in holding national capacity



One of the teams hard at work



Participants discuss their findings at the end of the session

building workshops on environmental statistics and indicators for their stakeholders, and have informally requested the support of ECLAC. ■



► (continued from page 7)

## ECLAC CONDUCTS TRAINING ON REDATAM+SP DATABASE CREATION AND ANALYSIS IN GRENADA

Data Analysis and Interpretation under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded component of the Support for Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean (SPARC). SPARC is a multi-donor initiative which is coordinated by the Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to build capacity in areas of poverty reduction, Millennium Development Goals monitoring and social policy development systems.

In keeping with this objective, CDB has been conducting these workshops to complement its ongoing programme of support to its Borrowing Member

Countries (BMCs) in the conduct of Country Poverty Assessments and implementation of poverty reduction strategies. ECLAC and CDB planned and conducted the Regional Seminar on Data Warehousing and Dissemination to expose approximately 30 key persons, (statisticians and relevant professionals) from its BMCs with the methods and facilities available in the subregion for the storage, retrieval and manipulation of poverty and social data.

The seminar was participatory in nature and made extensive use of the knowledge, skills and experiences of facilitators and participants as key resources throughout. It also included sharing of online resources and databases for data storage and dissemination, such as

DevInfo, the Derek Gordon Databank and REDATAM, and culminated with working group sessions. Participants were afforded opportunities to acquaint themselves with the available electronic resources and acquired training on the manipulation of some national databases. The sessions were coordinated by Mr. Edwin St. Catherine, Director of Statistics, Saint Lucia, with support from resource persons from CDB, ECLAC and SALISES.

The session was one of a series of workshops that had been convened by CDB to complement the Bank's ongoing poverty eradication programme that enabled countries to assess and monitor poverty levels through the conduct of regular CPAs. ■



► (continued from page 3)  
WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2010

offices make to development, they remain among the least resourced departments of government.

ECLAC has been working to build national capacity in the production of more accurate and timely statistics that supports statisticians and other producers of statistics and contributes substantively to policymaking by conducting research and providing technical and advisory services.

The Commission has implemented a number of projects: Improving Caribbean Household Surveys, Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment, Strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) and The Gender Equality Observatory for the Caribbean.

#### **Improving Household Surveys Project**

Household surveys are an important source of socio-economic data, and have become a central and strategic component in the organization of national statistical systems and in the formulation of social and development policies. Important indicators to inform and monitor development policies are derived from such surveys, and household survey data allow the production of more than half of the MDG indicators, ten of which – including those on poverty and income distribution – can only be produced using this instrument.

The project, “*Improving Household Surveys in the Caribbean*,” which was implemented between January 2007 and March 2010, sought to improve the comparability

of social statistics produced through household surveys, and to ensure international standards of comparability. The primary beneficiaries of this project were National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in 15 CARICOM States.

#### **Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment Project**

**In the Caribbean, the informal sector represents a fundamental component of the economic structure of most countries.**

In these countries, such enterprises are key forms of organization of production and provide much needed sources of income for a great number of people.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) commissioned project on the “*Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment*” in the region, between January 2007 and December 2009, which aimed to improve data on the informal sector and on informal employment for the promotion of evidence-based social policies at the national and interregional levels.

This multilateral Development Account project was implemented across three regional commissions including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and ECLAC. ESCAP was the lead agency for the project, while ESCWA and ECLAC were responsible for implementing project activities in their respective regions.

In the Caribbean, the project was implemented in close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Subregional Office, through their project “*Harmonization of Basic Labour Market Concepts*,” along with NSOs. Project implementation in the region focused on the production of technical guidelines, the provision of technical training and assistance and the promotion of best practices.

#### **The Gender Equality Observatory for the Caribbean**

Over the last biennium, ECLAC has been providing technical assistance to a number of Caribbean countries through the Gender Observatory, dealing with the issue of data collection inadequacy on domestic violence. The rationale behind this data collection protocol is that an increase of appropriate data would provide profiles of victims and violators, and the correlation between domestic violence and other socio-economic and cultural factors could be determined. This would ultimately allow for the design of more effective and targeted social policies in the Caribbean.

To date, Caribbean countries are at different stages of readiness to accommodate the proposed data collection system due to varying levels of statistical sophistication, population size, cultural sensibilities governing interpretations of domestic violence as a criminal act, and commitment towards data collection. With the assistance of ECLAC, countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago have taken active steps towards the establishment of data collection systems.

#### **Strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals**

Over the last two years, ECLAC has worked on strengthening the capacity of NSOs in the Caribbean to fulfil the MDGs and other IADGs. There is a need for strengthening institutional capabilities for generating and compiling reliable social and economic statistics in order to effectively monitor countries’ progress towards these goals. In this regard, ECLAC has provided technical support and training workshops to better equip governments to measure and report on progress, as well as apply evidence-based approaches to national policymaking and planning. ■

<sup>1</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (2005), *Household Sample Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries*. New York.

<sup>2</sup> Muñoz & Scott (2004), *Household Survey and the Millennium Development Goals*. PARIS21.

## ABSTRACTS - ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

### ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE CARIBBEAN 2009-2010 - FISCAL CONSOLIDATION AND MEDIUM-TERM GROWTH

October 2010

**LC/CAR/L.272**

This survey provides an overview of the economic performance of countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for 2009 and their outlook for 2010. The overview comprises three chapters. The first chapter provides a comparative analysis of the main macroeconomic variables, namely, GDP growth, inflation, fiscal and external accounts, and fiscal, monetary and other policies, including those devised to cope with the global economic crisis. The second chapter deals with two topics relevant to economic development in the Caribbean: threshold effects in the relationship between foreign direct investment on import productivity growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the question of leakages and linkages towards a tourism-based service economy in the Caribbean. The third and final chapter presents country briefs for the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, together with a subregional assessment of the eight member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

The survey found that medium-term prospects for the Caribbean will depend on the speed of the global recovery and the extent to which pressures for fiscal consolidation at home dampen further injections into the economy.

The study puts forward recommendations that may help address some of the difficulties

Caribbean economies now face, including a programme of fiscal consolidation, boosting internal and regional demand through the encouragement of sustainable projects must be pursued through public-private partnerships and pursuit of a programme of export diversification in conjunction with market diversification to target emerging players in international trade.

### A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

December 2010

**LC/CAR/L.280**

In a study published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in December 2009, a strong recommendation was made to conduct a follow-up study to "collect information on the availability of statistical information on persons with disabilities and on the implementation of legislation and policies in order to measure the commitment of governments in the Caribbean region towards the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)."<sup>1</sup>

As such, ECLAC conducted a baseline study which comprised three questionnaires for national statistical offices (NSOs), government ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean in an attempt to get feedback on the situation of persons with disabilities. The report focuses on the questionnaires to the government ministries and NGOs on the implementation of policies and legislation.

The report starts with a general description of the Caribbean subregion as well as the current situation of disability. The second part of the report presents the results of the survey based on the two questionnaires to the NGOs and the government ministries with the purpose of collecting first-hand accounts of the realities of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean, as well as to collect information on policies, programmes and other measures related to the rights of persons living with disabilities.

The analysis showed that there were some improvements in relation to the situation of persons with disabilities in the areas of laws and legislation, education and employment, however, more work was needed in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, accessibility and personal mobility as well as access to information and communication.

In the conclusion, some recommendations are given whereby more data and research is needed for there to be proper development and implementation of national and regional policies for disability.

### A STUDY ON APPLICABILITY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

December 2010

**LC/CAR/L.281**

The study analyzes the potential opportunities and risks involved in employing biotechnologies in the Caribbean region. This information would support developmental policies in the areas of food security, climate change and poverty reduction. The report provides a brief overview of biotechnology development, covering industrial and other microbial biotechnologies, tissue culture and molecular biology. ▶

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2009), "A Further Study on Disability in the Caribbean: Rights, Commitment, Statistical Analysis and Monitoring", (LC/CAR/L.237), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, December.

## ABSTRACTS - ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

**continued ▶**

### A STUDY ON APPLICABILITY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

December 2010  
**LC/CAR/L.281**

The rest of the report analyzes the Caribbean situation, and closes with a discussion of the applicability of biotechnology to the region in terms of agricultural, industrial, environmental, medical and marine biotechnology.

The main conclusion of the study is that there is an urgent need for development and use of biotechnology in the Caribbean, especially in non agro-biotech sectors, to address food security, climate change, poverty, environmental degradation, among other issues.

### AVAILABILITY, COLLECTION AND USE OF DATA ON DISABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

December 2010  
**LC/CAR/L.283**

This paper addresses the issue of the availability of data on persons with disabilities in the Caribbean subregion. It was prepared as a background paper for the Subregional Meeting and Capacity-Development Training Workshop on "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean".

It presents the findings of a survey conducted by ECLAC aimed at gaining insight on current practices of national statistical offices and other data collecting agencies with respect to the collection of national data on persons with disabilities. Using data from the 2000 year census for eight countries, the study also examines the impact of disability on education and employment.

Part I of the study presents the findings of a national assessment carried out by ECLAC to determine the data collection practices. It revealed that most countries were already involved in collecting data on disability, however, the scope of the coverage and the periodicity of collection were very limited.

Part II of the study provides a statistical analysis of census data from eight countries in the region. The analysis addressed questions regarding equal opportunity and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment and education. The analysis was framed around the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which outlines disability issues within a human rights framework.

The projections indicate that some countries in the region are likely to record very substantial increases in the size of the disabled population.

## LIST OF ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

Listed by Catalogue Number, Date and Title

**No.LC/CAR/L.272** October 2010

Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2009-2010 - Fiscal Consolidation and Medium-term Growth.

**No.LC/CAR/L.274** December 2010

Report of REDATAM+SP National Training Workshop in Database Creation and Analysis.

**No.LC/CAR/L.277** December 2010

Report of the Meeting of the High-Level Advisory Committee (HLAC) of the Project: A Review of the Economics of Climate Change (RECC) in the Caribbean.

**No.LC/CAR/L.278** December 2010

Report of the Subregional Meeting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**No.LC/CAR/L.279** December 2010

Report of the Subregional Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**No.LC/CAR/L.281** December 2010

A Study on Applicability of Biotechnology to Development in the Caribbean: Opportunities and Risks.

**No.LC/CAR/L.283** December 2010

Availability, Collection and Use of Data on Disability in the Caribbean Subregion.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1st QUARTER

**2011**

**18 February, 2011**

Meeting of the Working Group of the Review of the Economics of Climate Change in the Caribbean (RECC) Project  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**21-23 March, 2011**

2011 Round of the International Comparison Programme  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**24-26 March, 2011**

2011 Round of the International Comparison Programme  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**28-30 March, 2011**

2011 Round of the International Comparison Programme  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

**INFORMATION UPDATE FORM**

Please help us to keep our FOCUS Newsletter mailing list current by ensuring that we have your correct contact information (correctly spelt name, proper designation, correct address, etc.) recorded on this issue's mailing label. Any changes or additions should be filled in on the form below and returned to our office.

Mr.

Miss.

Mrs.

Ms.

Dr.

Prof.

Other (specify)

**Family Name**

**First Name**

**Job Title**

**Organisation**

**Address**

**Telephone Contact (s)**

**Fax**

**E-mail**

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

I Chancery Lane, PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000 Fax: (868) 623-8485 E-mail: [registry@eclacpos.org](mailto:registry@eclacpos.org)



United Nations

ECLAC

**The Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee  
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000 Fax: (868) 623-8485  
E-mail: [registry@eclacpos.org](mailto:registry@eclacpos.org)  
<http://www.eclacpos.org>