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Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

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THE ROLE OF ECLAC POS

ISSUE 4 / OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2007

**CDCC
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION
COMMITTEE**

In 1975, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – then known as ECLA – established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body at the governmental level. ECLAC provides secretarial services to the CDCC acting principally through its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

The CDCC functions as an intergovernmental organization that meets annually at the technical level and every other year at the ministerial level. Its operational activities are carried out under the regular ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean, which includes economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, the environment, international trade and trade-in-service, information for development, sustainable development of small island developing states, science and technology, women in development, tourism, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

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MIGRATION: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION/ECLAC WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SHARING IN THE CARIBBEAN. November 9, 2007



Migration addressed on a global level

In today's world almost all countries are affected by migration, either as source, destination, transit country or a combination thereof. As the numbers of cross-border movements increase, migration has become a phenomenon at the forefront of many countries' national political agendas and development debates over the past decade.

Over the past decades, the international community has increasingly recognized that migration can no longer be dealt with as solely a national challenge and that bi- and multilateral cooperation and collaboration are increasingly important.

While migration has been addressed through the various global conferences on population and development convened by the United Nations over the past decades, only in 2006 – for the first time at the United Nations Headquarters in New York – high-level senior government officials and other experts came together to elaborate on the pros and cons of migratory movements in order to identify ways and means to sufficiently and successfully manage the flow of humans across international borders for the benefit of the sending, receiving and transit countries. This high-level dialogue on migration also recognized the almost global lack of adequate, appropriate, timely and quality data and statistics on migration as one of the most serious concerns shared by all stakeholders concerned. The agreed upon notion was that only

informed policy makers and advisers would be in a position to define adequate policies and to develop programmes to appropriately manage the permanent and non-permanent movements of persons. This global dialogue further encouraged establishing and improving informed dialogue mechanisms among policy makers, statisticians and researchers to generate more meaningful and policy-relevant information to allow all parties to reap the benefits from these cross-border movements.

The magnitude, types and impacts of migratory flows are neither well known nor sufficiently understood and migration takes a variety of forms, depending on the type of classification system applied, such as documented and undocumented, temporary vs. permanent, forced vs. voluntary migratory movements, to only name a few categories. Migration that used to be largely uni-dimensional, uni-directional, and permanent is now multi-dimensional and multi-directional, with temporary and circular patterns that are more the norm than the exception (United Nations, 2004, p.10). According to the most recent estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2007), there are now about 191 million people on the move, and therefore the question no longer is whether to have migration but more so how to manage it in order to maximize its positive potential and minimize its negative effects.

In order to formulate appropriate policies and to make informed decisions, complete and timely national, regional and international statistics are needed.

The movement of persons has changed worldwide and in an area of globalization it is increasingly difficult to satisfy countries' needs for uniform statistics.

The easing of and the liberalization of movements through international agreements in the Caribbean has created an urgent need for data and procedures that would facilitate the monitoring of the flows of people across countries.

Migration and the CSME

With the adoption of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy¹ (CSME) by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries, the subregion is on its way to implement the free movement of its nationals among its member States. As it stands now, only a selected group of professionals is allowed to move freely and establish their businesses in any CSME member country. However, the final goal on the way to fully implement the visions of the CSME is to provide for the free movement of all nationals of CSME member States among their countries. Already the widening gap between the more and the lesser developed countries within the Caribbean has provided incentives for many nationals from poorer countries to seek greener pastures in the economically more attractive islands. Apart from monitoring CARICOM intra-regional movements, migratory flows from countries outside CARICOM are becoming an increasing challenge for the subregion. The increasing inflows of undocumented migrants working in construction, in the commercial sex industry, and in drug-related commercial activities make the establishment of adequate monitoring systems an urgent requirement. Other matters of critical concern are, on the one hand, the continuous loss of skilled labour mainly to countries such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom while, on the other hand, the growing numbers of deportations which pose growing challenges to their receiving countries. ►

¹ CSME website: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/single_market/single_market_index.jsp?menu=csme



IOM/ECLAC Workshop on Migration

To assist governments and other concerned parties in the Caribbean in addressing these issues, ECLAC in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), convened a one-day workshop in Grand Cayman on November 9, 2007². This workshop provided a platform for practitioners in migration from various governmental institutions – ranging from officials from Immigration Departments and National Security to representatives from National Statistics Offices and other governmental bodies to share best practices in already existing mechanisms for migration data management and sharing at the national, regional and global level and to identify practicable approaches for the Caribbean to bridge the still existing information gaps on migratory movements in this part of the world.

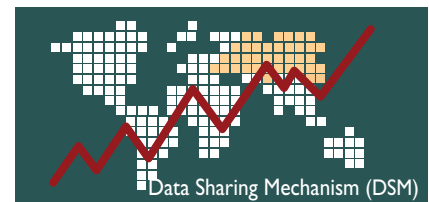
Two introductory presentations provided a brief overview of demographic concepts of migration and related data collection mechanisms and focused also on the present statistical infrastructure for general data collection in the Caribbean. Further, already existing mechanisms to enhance harmonization and data sharing in the Caribbean that could either directly or indirectly benefit efforts to enhance availability and accessibility of migration data were discussed. The major focus of the meeting was to provide an introduction into already existing migration-related data and information-sharing mechanisms, such as the Statistical Information System in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES) and the Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM), an instrument developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Danish Government and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Statistical Information System on Migration in Central America (SIEMCA), established in 2001 among six countries, is known to be one of the most efficient migration data collection systems in the world. With the inclusion of Mexico in 2006, it was transformed into the Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES), as it is known today. Its present website (www.siemmes.iom.int) provides access to over 1,400 graphs and charts.



The main features of SIEMMES are:

- (a) The provision of standard information for the participating countries;
- (b) The development of a regional migration statistics system that allows for inclusion of other interested countries;
- (c) The display of information on international migratory movements of nationals and foreigners for a given country and on remittances for the countries of the region;



- (d) The contribution to capacity-building at the national level in statistics and data management.

The IOM designed DSM³ consists of various components such as a formalized dialogue of migration users and producers and a technical component that enhances the actual sharing of data and information via an electronic database and finally through the Internet. As prime users of the DSM, national governments and/or the respective responsible bodies are the main architects of the mechanism and retain total ownership over the data and information they submit. They also maintain the exclusive right to provide other users with access to their data on mutually agreed conditions.

The fundamental principle of the DSM is the assumption that almost all countries dispose of some kind of information on migration either derived from administrative procedures or from systematic data collection efforts. However, in many instances this information is neither known nor shared with other stakeholders concerned. Also, available information from one source can only be used to provide a comprehensive overview of migration in a country if proper documentation regarding source, timeliness, survey methodology and other critical characteristics is shared along with the respective statistics.

According to the DSM, the following steps can assist countries in their efforts to develop national activities and programmes to enhance timely access to critical

² ECLAC has prepared a background document to this meeting: Migration Data Collection, Management and Sharing in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.139, 29. October 2007.

³ IOM (IOM, 2007) has recently published a manual to describe this approach. The information provided in this section is mainly drawn from this publication. More information on the DSM is available through the following web-site: www.dsm-migration.net.

migration related data and information (IOM, 2007, p. 33):

- (a) Establishment of a network of core institutions dealing with migration-related data;
- (b) Mapping of existing national statistical infrastructures;
- (c) Identifying an agreed minimum set of aggregated overall data indicators;
- (d) Creating an efficient electronic exchange mechanism;
- (e) Organizing national and regional workshops to discuss data management and policy trends; and
- (f) Addressing national and regional needs through training workshops and technical assistance.

In recognition of the fact that one country's emigrants are another country's immigrants, the DSM strongly promotes bi- and multilateral dialogue to agree on statistics and related information to be shared, based on mutual needs and benefits. In the case of the Caribbean, the establishment of a regional cooperation and collaboration mechanism would definitely benefit the countries in the region as well as the neighboring countries outside the Caribbean region that are either sending or receiving countries of migrants to and from the subregion.

Finally, the results of a survey on existing migration data collection and sharing

mechanisms administered to officials from national Central Statistical Offices (CSO) who participated at a regional demography training workshop was presented.

In order to enhance migration data collection, management and sharing in the Caribbean, the participants to the workshop suggested the following actions to be pursued at the national, regional and global levels:

At the national level

(i) Enhanced recognition of the fact that only timely, reliable and comprehensive data on migration will allow for monitoring and management of migration in the Caribbean. Priority in the management of data sources could be the turning point in the data situation at the national level but also at the regional level.

(ii) National CSOs and other data collecting bodies need to be strengthened in their efforts to provide the necessary information in a timely matter;

(iii) A platform for communication and building of trust between users and producers of migration data need to be established and possibly guided by a national coordinator. A strong national coordinator could be in a position to facilitate such a process, identify and make known the national data needs and establish and convene working groups, as needed, including the critical stakeholders concerned. Often to initiate such a process, communication and trust needs to be enhanced among all partners in order to establish and maintain a sustainable mechanism at the national and regional levels.

At the regional and global levels

(i) Countries need to recognize that migration is no longer a matter of national concern only, but increasingly a cross-border issue that can only be thoroughly addressed through regional and global coordination and

collaboration efforts. There is a need to establish and maintain a continued dialogue between data users and producers; and establish a network of focal points of migration within and across national borders. To respond to these challenges, coordination and collaboration at the national, but increasingly also at the regional and international levels, are critical to help strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders concerned to compile the necessary statistics and to provide evidence-based policies and procedures to better guide, manage and finally fully benefit from the cross-border movements of nationals and foreigners.

(ii) An increased understanding needs to be created that the sharing of information, while at the same time maintaining control over the process would benefit all partners concerned.

(iii) Existing mechanisms in other parts of the world could provide a solid guideline for the establishment of similar mechanisms at the regional level for the Caribbean.

(iv) There is a need to identify a regional body, such as CARICOM or the University of the West Indies (UWI) or even a United Nations agency, to provide a temporary platform to kick-start such an initiative that could later be transferred to a regional body.

(v) Issues of data security need to be addressed with utmost priority, as the use of technology becomes more prominent and timely. ■



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AGEING - CARIBBEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IN FOLLOW UP TO THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Introduction

Changing demographic age structures and its implications on the societies affected by ageing have been addressed at various global, regional and subregional conferences called by the United Nations.

The first global intergovernmental conference addressing ageing as a global phenomenon was the first World Assembly on Ageing convened 25 years ago in 1982 in Vienna. The then adopted International Plan of Action on Ageing called for a new architecture for ageing and for transmitting it to the world-stage and into policy. Participants at various global conferences in the 1990s, such as the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development and in particular the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) have all agreed in their respective action plans to address implications of changing age-structures on their respective societies and in particular, to make a priority the needs of the growing numbers of elderly in their countries. In particular the Cairo Programme of Action recommends that 'all levels of Governments in medium- and long-term socio-economic planning should take into account the increasing numbers and proportions of elderly people in their population'. This includes the need to provide long-term support and care, develop sustainable mechanisms for social security and promote greater inter- and intra generational equity and solidarity. Also, Governments agreed to enhance the self-reliance of elderly and their continued participation in society.

With the adoption of the Madrid Plan of Action (MIPAA) at the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002, population ageing and its implications on societies have finally moved to the forefront of many



April 2002 - Madrid Spain (Photo by Researchers Inc/Vanessa Vick)

countries' development agendas. Guided by the global theme '*addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing*', this year, 2007, marks the fifth anniversary of this important event and has been set as the target year for the global review and appraisal of the implementation of this global action plan.

To support Governments in the Latin America and Caribbean region in their efforts to identify progress made and gaps encountered in the implementation of MIPAA and its related regional and subregional action plans, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Government of Brazil hosts the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Brasilia in December 2007.

Ageing Populations in the Caribbean

Population ageing is also well on its way in this region, in spite of the fact that many characterize Caribbean nations as youthful societies. The success in providing basic social and primary health care to Caribbean peoples has resulted in enhanced life-expectancy and declining numbers of deaths in early life-years. This, along with continuously declining fertility rates, has been leading to one of the world's fastest demographic transitions - a transformation of rather young societies to populations with increasing predominance of older persons.

In a recently published ranking of all 183 United Nations member States (United Nations, 2006c) according to their percentage of populations aged 60 years

and over, two Caribbean countries, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with both 17 per cent are among the first 25 per cent of the countries with the highest percentage of older persons. Another eight countries, Cuba (16 per cent), the Netherlands Antilles (14 per cent), Barbados (13 per cent), Trinidad and Tobago (11 per cent), Jamaica and Saint Lucia (10 per cent) and Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (10 per cent) are among the first 50 per cent of the world's countries with regard to ageing.

Action on Ageing in the Caribbean

While many Caribbean Governments have been instrumental in the formulation of global action plans, even more countries from this region have shaped regional and subregional action plans, such as the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by in Santiago in 2003. A highlight for the Caribbean was the first Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing that was held in Port of Spain in 2004. Academic research on ageing in the Caribbean was shared and Government officials formulated a way forward for the region.

Caribbean countries have made varying amounts of progress towards these goals since the World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002. While some countries have undertaken efforts to establish national machineries on ageing, others have focused on legislation to support their elderly. A large number of countries have been undertaking efforts to adjust their health care services to the changing needs of their graying societies and also promote 'societies for all' through national elderly days and other nationwide activities.

For example, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago

established governmental institutions devoted to ageing that range from fully staffed divisions in the case of the British Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago to the establishment of a Desk for the Elderly in the case of Grenada.

Three countries in the region, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have adopted their national policies on ageing while others, such as Barbados, Dominica and Grenada are currently at different stages in their national consultations to formulate such a document. National councils on ageing, civil society affiliations representing the elderly and other lobbying bodies have been established all over the region, as for example national councils on ageing in Belize, Barbados and Jamaica, and the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons (TTARP) and Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARB), to only mention a few.



With regard to social security and social protection, almost all countries have engaged in various activities to enhance access to social security and pensions for persons over age 60. Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad and Tobago, for example, have instituted a non-contributory old age pension to guarantee a minimum income to their senior citizens. Countries without such an all encompassing pension-system use a variety of already existing strategies and programs integrated in governmental policies in health care, social security and social service provision to enhance the welfare of their elderly.

The need for home care and long-term care has been addressed by some countries such as Anguilla, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Awareness-raising programmes to promote the rights of elderly and to enhance their social inclusions are

an established exercise in almost all countries in the region, through events such as Senior Citizen Months celebrated in the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands or special days for intergenerational activities are held in Grenada, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

In its efforts to offer training of professionals in the area of gerontology and elderly care, UWI in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have initiated research on ageing and gerontology in the Caribbean and begun to offer courses in gerontology and geriatrics, while Dominica and the Bahamas are offering formal training to health care professionals as well as family care givers.

Review of progress in implementation of action plans on ageing in the Caribbean

To provide Caribbean countries with an opportunity to review progress made in the implementation of action plans related to ageing, particularly in light of the fifth anniversary of the Madrid Summit, ECLAC convened a one-day intergovernmental meeting. Officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago were present along with officials from various United Nations agencies and Civil Society.

Participants to this meeting provided brief statements on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action since its adoption, focusing on the main topics of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing: (1) Older persons and development, (2) Advancing health and wellbeing into old age, (3) Ensuring enabling and supportive environments. The forum then formed three working groups to discuss these themes further and to formulate the sub-regional input into the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Brasilia. This 'Caribbean Position on Ageing' reflects progress made in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and other action plans as well as recommendations for further action to enhance the lives of the elderly in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean position on ageing

The general framework of the Caribbean Position on Ageing is presented below, while the more detailed recommendations adopted by the meeting can be found in the report on the meeting (ECLAC, 2007):

i. The adoption of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2002 and the adoption of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing in Santiago in 2003, along with the First Caribbean Symposium on Population held in 2004 have further enhanced the recognition of population ageing in the Caribbean.

ii. The context of demographic transition is well under way in the Caribbean. Nevertheless the situation varies from country to country: While some countries are considerably advanced, others are at a rather incipient stage.

iii. The process of population ageing is a result of fertility decline and rising life-expectancy, the latter a result of improved general health and living conditions in the countries of the Caribbean. Thus, ageing constitutes a success story for the countries in this subregion.

iv. The fact that the populations of the Caribbean are ageing poses numerous challenges to the countries in the Caribbean. While this transition was much slower in the developed world under rather favorable socio-economic conditions, countries in the Caribbean are struggling with the consequences of these rapid demographic transformations under far less favorable socio-economic environments.

v. Caribbean countries also recognize the unique opportunity the present demographic conditions, with declining youth dependency rates and still rather low old age dependency rates, offer. The resulting reduction in the burden posed on the working age-population allows for unique investments in pension schemes and social protection plans for the working age population to ensure coverage later in life. ■

Reference:

(Report of the Caribbean intergovernmental Conference in follow up to the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development – Focus on ageing, LC/CAR/L. xx, 7. November 2007)

REPORT – TENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

QUITO, ECUADOR. AUGUST 2007



Introduction

The tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened in Quito, Ecuador from 6-9 August 2007, and brought together ministers and other senior authorities responsible for the status of women and public policies to ensure gender equity in the countries of the subregion.

The opening session included the participation of the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr. Rafael Correa; the President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet; the First Vice-president of Spain, Ms. Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega; the ECLAC Executive Secretary, Mr. Jose Luis Machinea; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa.

The two subject areas examined at the tenth session of the Regional Conference were political participation and gender parity in decision-making processes at all levels and the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, especially in relation to unpaid work performed by women.

As a subsidiary organ of ECLAC the Regional Conference is convened in compliance with the mandates contained in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean Economic and Social Development. The Regional Conference also reviews public policy from a gender perspective, for identifying women's needs at the regional and subregional levels to ensure gender equity.

The tenth session of the Regional Conference was preceded by three preparatory meetings in Guatemala, Antigua and Barbuda and Chile.

The Caribbean subregional preparatory meeting was held on 22 - 23 May, 2007 in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in accordance with the agreements adopted by the fortieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women that met in Santiago, Chile in October 2006. The Ministers attending this Caribbean meeting prepared a Declaration for submission to the Regional Conference. The St. John's Declaration reaffirmed and endorsed the themes of women's political participation in decision-making processes and women's contributions through unpaid work. The Ministers also expressed their commitment to the achievement of gender equality, social justice, sustainable development and poverty eradication, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences.

Participation

The Caribbean Subregion was represented by eleven CDCC member states, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, one Associate member state, the Turks and Caicos Islands and two observer states, the Cayman Islands and St. Maarten. The National Union of Domestic Employees of Trinidad and Tobago was the lone NGO representative.



L -R: Ms. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, Mr. Rafael Correa, President of the Republic of Ecuador, Ms. Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, First Vice-president of Spain



Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador



Mr. Jose Luis Machinea, ECLAC Executive Secretary

Seven CDCC member states were elected to serve on the Committee of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, namely Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Technical assistance was provided to the CDCC member states in a number of areas during the Regional Conference by staff of the Caribbean Subregional Office, namely the Director and the Social Affairs Officer with responsibility for Gender.

Main Issues

The main conference document "Women's contribution to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean" focused on the two themes of the Regional Conference - the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, especially pertaining to unpaid work performed by women, as well as political participation and gender parity in decision-making processes at all levels. Comments on the main document were provided by the President of the Commission of Permanent Representative of MERCOSUR, Mr. Carlos Alvarez, and Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Ms. Rachel Mayanja.

Reports were presented by 8 CDCC member states outlining progress with the implementation of the 2004 Mexico Consensus emanating from the ninth session of the Regional Conference.

Among the highlights emerging from these reports was the formation in Antigua and Barbuda of a centre for Women in Politics and Leadership (CIWIL), which was established to promote and increase the participation of women in politics, public life and management positions in the subregion.

Among the strategies envisaged by CIWIL is the skills development and empowerment of women through education and training to enable them to function effectively as policy formulators

and decision makers in the Caribbean. The Jamaica Government reported that steps had been taken to implement programmes and policies to address legal reform issues such as gender-based violence, poverty HIV and AIDS and gender mainstreaming initiatives. In addition a Gender Advisory Committee was established to develop a National Gender Policy which when completed will allow for more effective gender mainstreaming.



Mr. Carlos Alvarez
President of the Commission of Permanent
Representative of MERCOSUR



Left Ms. Rachel Mayanja
Assistant Secretary-General

Outcome

The Governments participating in the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, represented by Ministers and national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest level adopted the 'Quito Consensus' agreeing to a implement a comprehensive range of actions to advance the status of women and promote gender equality.

The Chairperson of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference was requested to submit the Quito Consensus for consideration to the ECLAC thirty second session, scheduled to take place in the Dominican Republic in 2008, and within the framework of the events marking the ECLAC sixtieth anniversary, to hold a high level activity to evaluate the Economic Commission's contributions in the area of gender.

Among some of the key decisions agreed upon was the adoption of the St. John's Declaration as an Annex to the Quito Consensus.

Further there were agreements reached for the recognition of the importance of the economic and social value of the unpaid agricultural and subsistence work performed by women, and being aware of the need to make its work visible and arrive at an accounting of its contribution to national economies and to the cohesion of our societies.

The offer of the Government of Brazil to host the eleventh session of the Regional Conference in 2010 was endorsed. ■



Conference Participants



CARIBBEAN SIDS AND THE REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM (RCM)



The overall challenge for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is in achieving a balance between economic development and environmental conservation, particularly given their small relative land mass and limited natural resource endowments. More specific difficulties accrue from the following:

- Weaknesses in policies or outdated policies that would inform programmes and actions;
- Limited technical and institutional capacity;
- Where policies exist, the lack of supporting regulations and enforcement mechanisms;
- Lack of succession in information sharing owing to high turnover of staff;
- Limited financial resources and sometimes inefficient use of resources;
- Ineffective co-ordination of activities resulting in duplication and unwise use of resources;
- Limited capacity for evaluation of activities and for reporting on donor funding;
- Land degradation through poor planning, resource allocation and inappropriate human settlements techniques;
- Brain-drain resulting in loss of skills

While the weaknesses may be considered as a hindrance to sustainable development, there are several strengths and opportunities that may be considered.

Strengths

- The commitment of stakeholders in the Region to sustainable development;

- The willingness of civil society to make a contribution to the development agenda;
- The strong intellectual capacity that exists in the Caribbean Region and its diaspora;
- A good network of regional institutions that, if effectively coordinated can contribute meaningful support to the sustainable development agenda.

Opportunities

- Although few, there are strong ties with development partners who may be willing to contribute to a sustainable development agenda for the Caribbean;
- Support of the UN community in project conceptualization and implementation;
- Opportunities for training of government personnel to implement the MSI;
- Cross-sectoral nature of the thematic areas of the MSI that encourages co-operation

The RCM's role in achieving sustainable development

The RCM has grown from a concept to a structured mechanism that now needs to be operationalized. The governmental structure is clearly outlined and the Secretariat has been named. The exact composition of the Technical Advisory Committee needs to be decided upon and the National Focal Point Mechanism (NFPM) is to be appointed. A proposal has been prepared for financing of the RCM and this is currently being considered by some donors. ECLAC is supporting the appointment of the Coordinator of the RCM for a period of one year initially. It is necessary to fast track operationalization of this Mechanism in support of effective implementation of the MSI.

Stakeholders

(i) Government:

In order to strengthen the process all the stakeholders have a role to play. Governments of member States need to allocate funding for operationalization of the RCM and to appoint the NFPM.

(ii) Regional Institutions

Regional institutions can collaborate in detailing a work programme for the RCM and in allocating responsibility for different elements taking into consideration the importance of achieving complementarity of activities, as well as optimization of resource use.

(iii) Civil society

Civil society organizations must be allowed greater participation in decision-making in implementation of the MSI. It would also be useful for governments to help build the capacity of civil society for such participation. Civil society could also play an important role in promotion of a participatory approach to implementation of activities.

(iv) Academia

The conduct of research into environmentally-sound technologies could be strengthened by academic institutions. Academia could also help in capacity building through the conduct of programmes and relevant courses.



Others

International Organizations such as the United Nations could play a co-ordinating role in the implementation of activities. Donors could also be more supportive of regional and national efforts to implement the MSI through more direct and less restrictive cooperation measures.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

THE ROLE OF ECLAC POS



Climate change refers to the variation in the earth's global climate or in regional climates over time. It describes changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere over time scales ranging from decades to millions of years. These changes can be caused by processes internal to the Earth, external forces (e.g. variations in sunlight intensity) or, more recently, human activities.

In recent usage, especially in the context of environmental policy, the term "climate change" often refers to changes in modern climate which according to the IPCC are 90-95% likely to have been in part caused by human action. Consequently the term anthropogenic climate change is frequently adopted; this phenomenon is also referred to in the mainstream media as global warming. In some cases, the term is also used with a presumption of human causation, as in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC uses "climate variability" for non-human caused variations.

Climate change may be addressed directly by:

- promoting energy efficiency;
 - reducing the consumption of fossil fuels;
- utilizing less carbon-polluting sources of energy e.g. natural gas;
- limiting carbon emissions through flexibility mechanisms such as carbon trading.

More indirect mechanisms include increasing the use of non-carbon sources of energy e.g. solar, wind, biofuels, hydro, wave power, geothermal sources.

ECLAC/POS and Climate Change

ECLAC Port-of-Spain provides advisory

services to CDCC governments in directly addressing climate change but recently, has been more active in the promotion of biofuels. Biofuels are considered a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy security by providing an alternative to fossils fuels.



Jamaica

ECLAC/POS has supported the conduct of a feasibility study into the potential for utilising renewable sources of energy in Jamaica. This study was conducted in 2005 and was a joint effort between ECLAC and the Ministry of Commerce, Science and Technology of Jamaica. Results of the study indicated that the country has abundant renewable energy (RE) sources that have been hardly tapped and which could provide for large shares of future energy requirements. Currently, wind and hydropower make up approximately 5% of total production. However, it is expected that by 2012, this would be increased to 15%.

One of the largest RE potentials for electricity generation is to be found in the sugar processing industry. Currently bagasse, a waste product of the sugar cane industry, is utilised as a source of electricity. However, the use of sugar cane could yield considerable amounts of bioethanol that may be employed in a 10% mix in the transport sector without any structural adjustment in vehicles.

Biogas is another source of RE and this is sourced from animal manure and sewage sludge. However, this would only make a limited contribution to overall energy supply. Solar water heaters cover only 1% of the domestic market

in private houses. There is considerable opportunity for increasing the supply of energy from solar water heaters not only in the domestic market but also in the service sector.

The report was accepted by the Government and formally launched in 2006.

Guyana

ECLAC also supported the conduct of a study into the potential for use of ethanol as a source of energy in Guyana. In Guyana, the sugarcane industry constitutes one of the most important economic activities of the country and is one of the main sources of foreign exchange. However, it is subject to very significant market risks, associated with changes in the Sugar Protocol and the reduction of preferential prices on the market of the European Union.

A diversity of raw materials, sweet or starchy, may be considered for the production of ethanol, however, when costs, available technology and energy productivity are considered, sugarcane (directly as juice or as molasses) presents the most attractive option.

If Guyana were to utilize a mixture of gasoline with 10% ethanol, a distillery producing 65 thousand liters of ethanol daily would be required to satisfy national demand. This would require an investment of approximately US\$ 65 million. It would result in annual savings of US\$ 5.4 million on the energy import bill, at 2005 prices.

Present conditions of the energy and agro-industrial sector of Guyana provide an excellent opportunity for the production and use of ethanol as a source of fuel in the country. Furthermore, in addition to price considerations, it is important to be able to produce locally part of the national energy demand, using available natural resources and proven technologies.

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ECLAC CDCC Staff in FOCUS

Sandra John, Head, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre



At ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, data, information and the collective knowledge gleaned from research and interaction with counterparts in CDCC member States and elsewhere are the tools with which we work. This information, as articulated in technical reports, programmes of technical assistance, and presentations to seminars, meetings and workshops, are the major direct products that result from what we do. All of this information is housed at the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, formerly the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

Providing information for Caribbean development has been a key objective of the CKMC when the library or Documentation Centre was established some 40 years ago. Since then, the environment in which library and information services are provided has evolved quite dramatically. So, too, has the approach to research, with the Internet replacing libraries as the information source of first choice. This shift manifested itself very quickly at ECLAC CDCC with a reduced dependence on the services that it provided. The Documentation Centre therefore had to develop a new relationship with its users. The name change to the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre represented an important aspect of our repositioning and a new interpretation of our role, which is the compiling, analyzing and organizing data into intelligible items of information that create knowledge in the shortest possible time. Also important is to ensure that the information that is disseminated fills a real need, is easily accessible, and contributes to a fuller understanding of the development issues facing the Caribbean region.

Sandra John, Head of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre joined ECLAC in 1996 as Head of the Documentation Centre and was one of the key persons who had a role in its transformation. After 11 years with ECLAC CDCC, Sandra moves on to another phase of her life. Following is an interview held with Sandra on her work and time spent with ECLAC.

Focus: Could you give a short background on your work pre-ECLAC?

Sandra: *I have been a librarian for most of my working life. My first job was at the Public Library in St Vincent and the Grenadines. After graduating I worked at the University of the West Indies Library, St. Augustine Campus. Subsequently I joined the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, and then the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards as librarian and in between jobs I have provided library and information services to companies in a variety of areas: engineering, insurance, education, law, etc. Just before joining ECLAC I was Information Network Manager at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in Saint Lucia for a little over eight years.*

Focus: What year did you join ECLAC and what were your expectations upon accepting the offer?

Sandra: *I joined ECLAC in 1996. It was an easy decision for me because I had been familiar with ECLAC's work having been the beneficiary of several training courses in library automation offered by the Caribbean Documentation Centre during the 1980s and early 1990s. I had also made presentations at ECLAC meetings on the work I was doing at the OECS. In a way, being offered a job at the United Nations was the ultimate validation of my worth as a professional. I was therefore very flattered by the offer and accepted without hesitation. I also expected to manage projects which would have allowed me to continue to work in the interest of the region and continue the close networking with Caribbean colleagues that had been a feature of my work at the OECS.*

Focus: Have these expectations been fulfilled?

Sandra: *Not entirely. I have had some successes, but I have questioned from time to time, whether my work was really useful. I was probably a little idealistic, but I would have liked my work to have a more direct impact on the quality of people's lives. Also, project funds were difficult to come by.*

Focus: What are the highlights of your career at ECLAC?

Sandra: *No one thing stands out. What I am most proud of is our responsiveness to the changing requirements of information work as the technology evolved to match people's expectations. I joined the Caribbean Documentation Centre twelve years ago. Now I am retiring from the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre and it is a lot more than a change in name. It represents our understanding of and commitment to the emerging Caribbean Information Society.*

Focus: What do you consider your most significant accomplishments at ECLAC?

Sandra: *The Caribbean Digital Library and the Caribbean Development Profiles are two of the projects I initiated. They have had a positive impact and will undoubtedly be a part of my legacy. Recently we launched the Knowledge Management Portal as a vehicle for the value added information services that we are attempting to provide. Also I have written a number of papers that shared perspectives on various aspects of the Information Society.*

Focus: What would you do differently if given the opportunity?

Sandra: *Not a lot. I have had wonderful days at ECLAC, but I have had my share of difficulties as well. In hindsight, I could on occasion have been less blunt, but then that I wouldn't have been me. The organization is very clear on the need for its staffers to respect diversity. This works both ways. I respect people with nationalities, ethnicities, attitudes and cultures that are different from my own, but I have always insisted, sometimes quite firmly that that respect be reciprocated.*

Focus: What message would you give to a young professional entering the ECLAC system or to the person who will replace you as Head of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre?

Sandra: *I would urge my replacement not to follow the script. Write your own story.*

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ABSTRACTS OF SELECTED RECENTECLAC PUBLICATIONS

Key statistics required under the Caricom CSME

LC/CAR/L.137. September 2007. **Publications 2007**
No. LC/CAR/L.137. 15 pp.

The approach in this paper is to consider each crucial area of statistics individually, and present and discuss some details highlighting in general where the subregion is with respect to the regular and timely production of the respective area of statistics. The paper concludes with a discussion of some of the major challenges facing statistical development and progress in the subregion.

Trade liberalisation, trade performance and competitiveness in the Caribbean

LC/CAR/L.136. September 2007. **Publications 2007**
No. LC/CAR/L.136. 37 pp.

This study provides an analysis of links between trade liberalisation, trade performance and competitiveness in the Caribbean. The study takes an eclectic approach, borrowing from different strands of theory and empirical findings, where necessary. Nevertheless from a broad conceptual frame of reference, an effort is made to analyse the structural, institutional and market (demand and supply) factors that impinge on trade performance and competitiveness outcomes in the region. This approach, it is believed, provides the most relevance for analysing the real world situation in the Caribbean, where the underlying structure and logic of the economy, complemented by institutional arrangements, hold the potential for thwarting or catalysing improved production, exchange, competitiveness and structural transformation.

Women's political participation and gender parity in decision-making at all levels in the Caribbean

LC/CAR/L.129. July 2007. **Publications 2007**
No. LC/CAR/L.129. 56 pp.

This paper on Women's Political Participation and Gender Parity in Decision-Making in the Caribbean has reviewed various indicators of women's participation in parliament, in government and in the public and private sectors in the English speaking islands of the Caribbean and Cuba and the Netherlands Antilles.

Report of the information specialists expert meeting and content management workshop

LC/CAR/L.135. September 2007. **Publications 2007**
No. LC/CAR/L.135. 27pp.

The first of these events was a technical meeting, entitled "Digital Content Management for Caribbean Librarians and Information Specialists". This meeting explored, through discussions and presentations, the changing role of librarians and information specialists in the context of a Caribbean Information Society, particularly as this relates to managing digital content to facilitate better decision-making.

The second was an Open Forum on the Information Society, promoted under the theme "ICT and Me". This took the form of a panel discussion on issues surrounding the information society from various perspectives and sought to engage the public in a discussion on the government's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy and programmes and its impact on the individual. It also featured the ECLAC video documentary, "ICT in the Caribbean".

Economic survey of the Caribbean- 2006-2007

LC/CAR/L.138. September 2007. **Publications 2007**
No. LC/CAR/L.138.136pp.

This survey provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) for the year 2006 and their outlook for 2007. The report consists of three chapters. The first one provides a regional analysis of the main economic indicators from a comparative perspective. The second chapter deals with two selected topics of particular relevance for the economic development of Caribbean countries, namely remittances and migration, and natural resources dependency. The last chapter presents country briefs with the main macroeconomic developments recorded in 2006 and the outlook for 2007.

LIST OF RECENT ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

Listed by Catalogue Number, Title and Date

LC/CAR/L.132 - (10/9/07)

Report of the 13th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC

LC/CAR/L.133 - (10/9/07)

Report of the Meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the CDCC

LC/CAR/L.134 - (./09/07)

Disability in the Caribbean – A study of 4 countries – A socio-demographic analysis of the disabled

LC/CAR/L.135 - (5/09/07)

Report of the Information Specialists Expert Meeting and Content Management Workshop

LC/CAR/L.136 - (06/09/07)

Trade Liberalization, Trade performance and competitiveness in the Caribbean

LC/CAR/L.137 - (18/09/07)

Key statistics required under the CARICOM CSME

LC/CAR/L.138 - (28/09/07)

Economic survey of the Caribbean 2006-2007

LC/CAR/L.139 - (26/10/07)

Migration data collection, management, sharing in the Caribbean

LC/CAR/L.140 - (31/10/07)

Saint Lucia: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Dean

LC/CAR/L.141 - (5/11/07)

Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts Vol IX 2007

LC/CAR/L.142 - (14/11/07)

Report of the Caribbean Intergovernmental Conference in follow-up to the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development – Focus on Ageing

LC/CAR/L.143 - (21/11/07)

Overview of the water profile and the capacity of national institutions to implement integrated water resources management (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada)

LC/CAR/L.144 - (29/11/07)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Migration Data Collection, Management and Sharing in the Caribbean – Cayman Islands

LC/CAR/L.145 - (3/12/07)

Commonwealth of Dominica – Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Dean (3/12/07)

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CARIBBEAN SIDS AND THE REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM (RCM)



The role of the international community

The international community could do the following:-

- Provide technical support for programme conceptualization and implementation;
- Continuously support capacity-building initiatives;
- Facilitate training in specific aspects of the MSI (e.g. environmentally-sound technologies such as the CDM, waste management);
- Play a coordinating role in joint implementation of the MSI;
- Provide support in meeting monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements of donors;
- Facilitate access to appropriate donor funding;
- Provide support for the conduct of studies that would inform policy actions at the governmental level;
- Support best practice, information and experience sharing with other SIDS regions;
- Facilitate a coordinated response to reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);
- Support a rights-based approach to sustainable development by mainstreaming human rights into related policies, plans and programmes. ■

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN - THE ROLE OF ECLAC POS

This would also stimulate diversification in the sugarcane industry which is currently exposed to well known challenges. Moreover, the use of ethanol as a source of energy would have significant environmental advantages. All together, these conditions make a decidedly sufficient and robust case to promote the use of ethanol for energy security in Guyana.

Possibilities for the use of other raw materials may also be considered, namely the use of locally produced raw materials, such as potatoes, for which already there is a clear interest in Guyana, and the evaluation of methods for the handling of related industrial waste.

This report was accepted by the Government of Guyana and formally launched in 2007.

Follow-up Activities

In order to provide support in building capacity of CDCC member countries, ECLAC convened a workshop/seminar in POS between 12-14 November 2007. Representatives from select CDCC countries were invited based on their country's potential for development

of biofuels. This workshop focused on building capacity in formulation of public policies for biofuels. It involved presentations by ECLAC staff and consultants and hands-on experience of the methodology used in formulating such policies. A tool for assessing the feasibility of developing the biofuels sector was also introduced and applied practically. Participants considered the workshop a success and expressed deep appreciation to ECLAC for providing the opportunity for them to gain such practical experience. They indicated that the methodology could also be used in other key sectors of their countries.

Expected Activities

ECLAC has received requests from Suriname and St. Kitts and Nevis for support in development of the biofuels sector, from Jamaica in development of the biodiesel sector and from Guyana for continued assistance in implementation of the results of the study. ECLAC has also been involved in supporting Montserrat in developing the geothermal potential of the island with a view to targeting the export sector. ■

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ECLAC CDCC Staff in FOCUS

Sandra John, Head, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre



The expression "think outside the box" has become clichéd, but I would urge him or her to have their own vision and pursue it with everything they've got. You are being hired to lead, not to follow. I would offer the same advice to any young professional. What you are leveraging is your unique perspective, your ideas and your creativity. You can't solve new problems with old ideas!

Focus: What are your plans post-ECLAC?

Sandra: *I am really not sure what my plans are. It is not that I am unprepared for retirement. I have been looking forward to retirement as a child would look forward to Christmas. I am looking forward to days with absolutely nothing on my agenda. I*

plan to be absolutely, delinquently, idle for a while. Initially, I return to my home country – St Vincent. I have only lived there for two years of my adult life. So that will be a voyage of rediscovering home, rediscovering the village where my parents lived after their own retirement. Whatever I do, I know will somehow involve writing and music, and if I have the opportunity to mentor young people, I would do that as well. I won't describe myself as an outdoors type, but I would like to try my hand at farming. I may do all that or none of the above. Whatever, I like the idea of not knowing for sure what a retired "me" will be like. It will be really interesting to find out.

Focus: Thank you Sandra and all the best.



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

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