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REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC WORK PROGRAMME

SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN

2004 - 2005 biennium

[Covering the period 1 January 2004 – 31 December 2005]

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Table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| A. Introduction..... | 1 |
| B. Implementation of activities by subject areas | 4 |
| 1. Subject area 12.1: Linkages with the global economy and competitiveness of the Caribbean countries..... | 4 |
| 2. Subject area 12.2: Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation | 6 |
| 3. Subject area 12.3: Information management for development..... | 10 |
| 4. Subject area 12.4: Environmental sustainability | 16 |
| 5. Subject area 12.5: Application of science and technology to Caribbean development..... | 21 |
| 6. Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean | 23 |

A. INTRODUCTION

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has the responsibility for the delivery of the above-captioned subprogramme of work. One of its core functions is to provide secretariat support to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The twentieth session of this intergovernmental body, a subsidiary organ of ECLAC, took place in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, April 2004. The twelfth session of its Monitoring Committee was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, May 2005. CDCC caucus meetings were held during the ECLAC Session in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2004; at the level of United Nations Permanent Representatives in New York, October 2004; and with the country delegations to the Mauritius International Meeting, January 2005. In addition, on these occasions caucus meetings of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries (AMCs) were facilitated.

The year 2004 is especially significant for CDCC because the revised text of its Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure was adopted. It is expected that the updated and modernized constitutional text will allow the CDCC to improve its service to its member countries.

Mandated by the CDCC and ECLAC, subprogramme 12 focused on the analysis of issues of special relevance to economic and social development in the Caribbean subregion, grouped in the following areas: i) Macroeconomic policies for social and economic development; ii) Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation; iii) Statistics and information management for development; iv) Social development issues; and v) Sustainable development in the Caribbean. This “implementation report” provides detailed information on its activities and results.

Over the biennium, the Secretariat has achieved a total implementation rate of 91 per cent, including outputs that were mandated, carried over from the previous biennium and added in response to requests from the member countries, other subregional institutions and agencies, for a total of 177 out of 194 outputs implemented. The outputs that could not be implemented basically refer to particular issues of various newsletters. The main obstacle was the freeze on external recruitment of local staff, which was in place during the two-year period, leading to six vacant local staff posts (out of 24) towards the end of the biennium.

During the biennium the subprogramme had a substantial increase in the provision of technical assistance to member countries and regional and subregional institutions. Member and associate member countries received substantive support in their preparations for participation at global conferences, such as the recent Mauritius International Meeting on the 10-year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (POA) for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), through the organization of a forum on the establishment of the Caribbean Information Society; the convening of the Caribbean Symposium

on Population Ageing addressing issues affecting the ageing population; the development of strategies aimed at reducing poverty and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) levels in member countries and issues related to the World Social Summit. In June 2004, support was given to the establishment of a Caribbean Water Partnership (CWP) that would provide member countries with the tools and information on water resources management in the subregion.

The Secretariat organized training workshops in the area of social and trade statistics and impact assessments. Participants from the AMCs participated in these sessions. One hundred and twenty four persons received training in the use of the ECLAC methodology on the assessment of the impacts of natural disasters. These workshops were successful in imparting new knowledge to public and private sector officials in the Caribbean.

The subprogramme concentrated on the development of programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of public institutions in member countries in formulating and implementing evidenced-based policies and programmes for promoting growth. In this regard, following the series of meetings to implement the social statistics databases and Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) programme in the Caribbean, it was considered more effective to impart this understanding through the conduct of training workshops. To date, 45 persons, from 13 member countries, six United Nations agencies and four regional and subregional institutions, have participated in training exercises in the use of the Caribbean Social Statistics Database (CSSD) and the development of the SVI geared towards the formulation of social policy for Caribbean SIDS.

A number of substantive documents were completed and distributed to governments and researchers. In addition, five intergovernmental and 12 expert group meetings in various subject areas were convened. Overall, the documents and meetings represented important contributions to the development of the Caribbean position at international meetings and other forums. Reports on the disaster assessment missions undertaken in Grenada, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Bahamas and Haiti (2004) and Guyana (2005) were published and are available on the subprogramme website (<http://www.eclac.cl/portofspain/>)

The study on “The Impact of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) on the Member States of the OECS use of Chapter 7” which was presented to the forty-first Heads of Authority of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) held in St. Kitts and Nevis in May 2005 led OECS governments to convene a high-level policy forum (a meeting of OECS trade ministers) to identify and amend specific provisions of Chapter Seven of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Proposals arising therefrom were presented to the CARICOM 26th Conference of Heads of Governments, Saint Lucia, 3-6 July 2005. The document provided an important input for the decision of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments to form a task force to examine the particular needs of OECS economies and to grant special and differential treatment to OECS economies. The CSME document has been a source of public debate on regional issues via the press and television media. Special studies were also prepared at the request of the Governments of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles and Belize on issues related to convergence of the respective economies vis à vis other Caribbean countries.

Since January 2004, this subprogramme has contributed to the formulation of policies and programmes in the area of migration (particularly the brain-drain in the health sector) by intergovernmental bodies, such as CARICOM, the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Guyana (July 2004), the Regional Nursing Body (2004, 2005), and the Commonwealth Secretariat (2005)

In order to improve the timeliness and success of the work produced by the Secretariat, the following databases were constructed: CARIBTRADE database, Caribbean social statistics databases, database on selected statistical indicators, Caribbean Digital Library, bibliographic database and a database on women and development in the Caribbean. Work has started on the development of gender indicators and science and technology indicators.

The table below summarizes total actual programme performance under subprogramme 12.

| TABLE 1 Summary of completed outputs of subprogramme 12 during biennium 2004-2005 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Subprogramme</i> | <i>Planned</i> | | <i>Additions by</i> | | <i>Implementation</i> | | <i>Departures from programmed commitments</i> | | <i>Implementation rates*</i> | |
| | <i>Programmed</i> | <i>Carried over</i> | <i>Legislation</i> | <i>Secretariat</i> | <i>Implemented</i> | <i>Reformulated</i> | <i>Postponed</i> | <i>Terminated</i> | <i>Mandated</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Subregional activities in Caribbean | 151 | 13 | 2 | 28 | 177 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 84 | 91 |

Implementation rates* - Mandated includes final outputs programmed, carried over and added by legislation. Total includes final outputs programmed, carried over and added by legislation and the secretariat.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES BY SUBJECT AREAS

1. SUBJECT AREA 12.1: LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean implemented this section of the work programme under a number of broad themes, namely economic integration, economic reforms, trade and investment and economic development. This was done within the context of developments that the Secretariat monitors at the global, hemispheric and regional levels. The Secretariat's programme of work was developed in response to the new regional and global structures, reflecting the progress of globalisation and trade liberalisation.

1.1 Economic development issues

The Secretariat continued to prepare studies in this subject area in an effort to keep member and associate member countries abreast of developments, which have implications for Caribbean economies.

- a) In keeping with the annual programme of reporting on the economic trends in the countries of the subregion, the Secretariat published the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2003-2004*, LC/CAR/L.21 and 2004-2005, LC/CAR/L.52. This publication is the culmination of work related to the monitoring of the macroeconomic performance of all CDCC countries. The research and analysis underlying the survey is being refined to make it more relevant and useful to member countries. Specifically, the Secretariat seeks to incorporate the most recent data and it also envisages the construction of models to map out possible macroeconomic scenarios. The second issue also reviews the external debt in the subregion.

1.1.1 Labour and social security

- b) The study, *Labour market trends and implications of regional integration*, LC/CAR/L.51, looks at recent labour market trends in the region and identifies three main challenges labour markets face: (a) unemployment; (b) education; and (c) labour mobility. It addresses high unemployment and explains how high youth unemployment, in particular, is a consequence of the inability to supply school-leavers with skills that are required in the labour market. As a result, the region is witnessing inflows of skilled workers from abroad to fill the gap, whilst simultaneously one can paradoxically observe a significant proportion of the region's skilled labour migrating to other regions, resulting in significant brain-drain.
- c) This paper was presented to a *Meeting of experts to consider recent trends in labour markets in the subregion, particularly with respect to wages, employment*

and productivity, held in Port of Spain, 19 June 2005. Meeting Report LC/CAR/L.47.

- d) Given the limited research on social security in the Caribbean, the Secretariat completed two studies on the subject. The first, *Social security in the English-speaking Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.64, highlights the current status of social security in the subregion. By presenting indicators of recent performance and identifying challenges facing schemes in the subregion, the study aims to contribute to the discussion by providing relevant facts and suggesting ways forward. The second paper *Social security reforms and their implications for the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.67, reviews the viability and sustainability of social security systems in the Caribbean. The paper notes that reform is required to grapple with population ageing, a fairly large informal (non-contributing) sector in some countries, high open unemployment and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

1.1.2 Growth

- e) In the document *Long-term growth in the Caribbean – A balance of payments constraint approach*, LC/CAR/L.63, an attempt was made to explain the evolution of the long-run economic growth in CARICOM economies using a balance-of-payments constrained growth model. The model is estimated for Caribbean economies and the results are compared to those obtained for Latin American economies. It also outlines the policy options that can allow countries to overcome their external constraint.

1.1.3 Development issues

- f) The paper *Strategies of “industrialization by invitation” in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.68, analyses the policies inspired by the strategy of ‘Industrialization by Invitation’ formulated by Nobel Laureate, Arthur Lewis, (1915-1991), and their effects on the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Puerto Rico. The strategy consisted in a nutshell of attracting foreign capital through a series of incentives. The paper argues that in both the English-speaking Caribbean and Puerto Rico the policies guided by the strategy of ‘industrialization by invitation’ succeeded in attracting foreign direct investment.

In addition to the completed works referred to above, the Secretariat prepared the *Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies* as a contribution to the *Preliminary overview of the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean*, editions 2004 and 2005.

1.2 **Technical assistance**

The Secretariat continued to respond to requests from member countries for technical support. This is offered under a special programme with funding from ECLAC Headquarters.

2. SUBJECT AREA 12.2: LINKAGES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

Member countries have been responding to the challenges of globalization by deepening and widening of regional integration and cooperation. The Subregional Headquarters has been facilitating these efforts through its research and technical assistance activities. The Secretariat assisted in fostering regional cooperation through its response to requests for assistance from AMCs of the CDCC in areas such as trade and social policy. In addition, the Secretariat undertakes the preparation of studies, at the request of member countries, to evaluate the possible impact of trade liberalization on their economies.

2.1 CDCC meetings

A significant activity of the work programme of the during 2004 was the successful organization of the twentieth Session of the CDCC in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, 22-23 April 2004 and the convening of the twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee held in Port of Spain, 12 May 2005. Deliberations of the meetings are provided in document LC/CAR/L.15 and LC/CAR/L.46, respectively.

The key reports considered at the twentieth session were:

- a) The document “*Status of the review of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC*”, LC/CAR/L.6, which was considered and emerged as the revised text of the *Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC*. The *Revised Text of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* and the *Programme of work for the biennium 2006 -2007* were formally adopted at the thirtieth Session of ECLAC in Puerto Rico.
- b) “*Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium*”, LC/CAR/L.9, presented a summarized report on activities carried out during the period since January 2004.
- c) The “*Work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium*”, LC/CAR/L.10, which details, by subject area, the proposed draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium 2006-2007, was submitted to the meeting for its consideration. The programme of work was subsequently adopted at the thirtieth Session of the Commission in Puerto Rico. June 2004.
- d) Document LC/CAR/L.8, “*Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which might be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC*” included information on selected resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

- e) At the twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, representatives from the member and associate member countries considered reports of the expert meetings on the issues related to the World Information Society and the development of a Caribbean Information Society and on the development of a science and technology policy for the Caribbean.
- f) The meeting also reviewed the status of the programme of work of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 2004-2005 biennium. Meeting Report LC/CAR/L.46.

2.2 Trade and services issues

During the reporting period, research was carried out on the analysis of the impact of international trading arrangements to regional developments. Some of the key documents are listed below.

- a) The document “*Meeting the challenges of the FTAA: Trade trends, export specialization patterns and regional integration in the Caribbean (including the case of the NICCS)*”, LC/CAR/L.4, provided an analysis of selected issues and highlighted some of the effects relating to regional integration focusing on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) from the perspective of CARICOM and the AMCs of the CDCC.
- b) Taking into account the challenges provided to the Caribbean countries as a consequence of the revisions to the Lomé Convention, the Secretariat completed an in-depth study entitled *The Cotonou Agreement – Selected issues, effects and implications for Caribbean economies*. LC/CAR/L.66. This document analyses selected issues, effects and implications of the Cotonou Agreement (Cotonou, Benin, 23 June, 2000) on Caribbean economies with a focus on CARICOM countries.
- c) This report was discussed at the *Expert Group Meeting: ‘Status of Trade Relations Between the European Union and the Caribbean Under the Cotonou Agreement*, held in Port of Spain, 8-9 December 2005. Meeting report LC/CAR/L.78.
- d) Given that many of the small Caribbean countries rely on exports of one or a few commodities and are unable to compete in free markets, the Secretariat completed the study “*Free trade and the development of sustainable agriculture in the Caribbean*”, LC/CAR/L.19. This study examines the options for Caribbean countries in pursuing development of their agricultural sectors given the changes taking place in the international economy. It was prepared with the aim of providing policy makers with the tools to introduce institutional support especially for small-scale farmers.
- e) With respect to the work on trade liberalisation, the paper *Restructuring Caribbean industries to meet the challenge of trade liberalisation*, LC/CAR/L.77,

assesses the changes in trade arrangements that Caribbean countries have had with major developed countries. These relate mainly to traditional agricultural industries, notably sugar, bananas and rice. The performance of the industries in terms of production and trade is examined as well as the strategies proposed for the future of the industries. Restructuring models are developed to facilitate the sustainable development of industries as well as preserve the livelihood of the rural communities. The ideal model is one based on a cluster approach and pursued within the context of the deepening of Caribbean integration through the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

- f) With respect to transportation, the document *Trade and transport in CDCC economies*, LC/CAR/L.70, analyses transport and trade in the CDCC economies. It examines trade theory, transport issues, trade trends and transport trends in CDCC economies and how cost structures affect competitiveness.

2.3 Financial services issues

- a) The study *Growth, debt and finance in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.71, analyses the growth of debt in Caribbean countries. The paper sustains that mainstream explanations that focus on government spending are, at most, incomplete explanations. Debt dynamics in smaller economies are explained by the interaction between fiscal policies and the external sector.
- b) In reference to the imminent implementation of the CSME, the Secretariat prepared the document, *Financial intermediation and its impact on capital formation in the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)*, LC/CAR/L.73. This study analyses the impact of financial intermediation on capital formation in the Caribbean. It takes the CSME process as a backdrop and examines its influence of the CSME on the link between financial intermediation, business investment and economic adjustment.

2.3.1 Training

In its endeavour to improve the capacity of policy makers and researchers in utilising trade data, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean embarked on a series of training programmes on the use of the CAN and MAGIC software using the data from CARIBTRADE Database.

2.4 Integration issues

2.4.1 Associate Member Countries (AMCs)

With a view to addressing the particular concerns of the AMCs, the Secretariat, through the Working Group of the AMCs completed the following documents:

- a) *“Priorities of associate member countries of ECLAC in relevant aspects of the Summit of the Americas process and Free Trade Area of the Americas”*, (LC/CAR/R.81)
- b) *The participation of AMCs in United Nations world conferences*, (LC/CAR/R.76).
- c) *“The convergent/divergent economic trajectories of Puerto Rico and the United States”* LC/CAR/L.11, which was commissioned by the Department of State of the Government of Puerto Rico.

2.4.2 Regional

i) *FTAA*

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued to provide technical support to the FTAA negotiation process through membership, along with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS), on the Tripartite Committee of the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE). Support takes the form of assistance to facilitate the work of the CGSE at its meetings as well as to prepare documents as part of the Hemispheric Cooperation Programme.

ii) *Association of Caribbean States (ACS)*

ECLAC continued to work closely with the ACS in the preparation of papers and the convening of meetings. As part of its commitment to the ACS, the Secretariat assisted in the preparation of the following documents:

- a) *Documento de base para apoyar la elaboracion del documento marco: Hacia una nueva vision de la Asociacion de Estados del Caribe*, (LC/CAR/R.78), July 2004; and
- b) *Cuarta cumbre de los jefes de estado y/o Gobierno de los estados miembros y miembros asociados de la Asociacion de Estados del Caribe – Borrador de plan de accion*, (LC/CAR/R.79), (July 2004.)

iii) *OECS*

ECLAC continues to offer substantial support to the OECS Secretariat in its preparation of a study to ascertain the real and potential impacts, negative and/or positive, of the CSME on the member States of the OECS and in the area of disaster assessment and training.

In this regard, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean prepared the *Study on the impact of the Common Market and Single Economy (CSME) on the Member States*

of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the utilization of Chapter 7 of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, LC/CAR/R.83. The study was requested by the OECS Secretariat and was presented to the Heads of Government of the OECS.

iv) Others

As part of its ongoing efforts to keep member countries up to date on development issues, the Secretariat held briefing sessions with Permanent Representatives at the United Nations and in Washington. On three occasions, CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations were updated on the activities of Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and on issues related to deliberations taking place at the time at United Nations Headquarters.

In other instances, information was also provided to the Permanent Representatives to assist them in their deliberations at meetings of the various committees of the United Nations.

2.5. Information dissemination

The Secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, "FOCUS", which provides information on its ongoing work.

The *ECLAC Issue Brief* previously issued as the "External Briefing Notes, which is produced twice a year, examines current economic issues and concisely highlights the implications for the Caribbean subregion.

2.6 Technical assistance

During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration and regional cooperation among member countries, on request.

A number of responses were made to requests from member governments for assistance in carrying out assignments on their behalf. A report was prepared for the Department of State of the Government of Puerto Rico and a project proposal was completed for the Government of the Netherlands Antilles.

3. SUBJECT AREA 12.3: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued to work towards providing ready access to national statistics of quality; improving the availability of integrated data with special attention given to the organizational aspects of statistics and information management. In addition, the Secretariat continues to work with member countries to create

accessible statistical databases with a view to providing reliable information to enable good governance.

During this biennium, particular attention was being directed towards the prospects for a Caribbean Information Society within the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). To this end, the Secretariat was fully engaged in working with regional governments in preparing for this event, the second session of which took place in Tunis in November 2005.

Pursuant to the objective of increasing the availability of information to researchers and decision makers, technical assistance was provided to Secretariat staff, Caribbean librarians and tertiary level students in the Caribbean.

It should be noted that in keeping with current trends, publications, including newsletters, prepared by the Secretariat are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website <http://www.eclac.cl/portofspain/>. In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of keeping the cost of publications and dissemination to a minimum.

3.1 Information management

Recognizing that there was an urgent need to reform the traditional information gathering infrastructure, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean took a bold step in retooling its Documentation Center. In its place is the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC) which is committed to compiling, analyzing, and organizing data into intelligible items of information that create knowledge in the shortest time and with optimal use of our own scarce resources. Its aim 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.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean quickly understood that Knowledge Management was not about purchasing a computer software package and configuring it to suit pre-defined data needs. It was about first creating a human network and developing a culture of knowledge sharing and making that process an integral part of the work flow.

The CKMC has responsibility for activities carried out under this subject area, provides web-based access to several of its bibliographic databases and also maintains the [Caribbean Digital Library](#).

3.1.1 Caribbean Digital Library (CDL)

The CDL is a virtual collection of Caribbean documents and other electronic information resources available on the World Wide Web, organized for easy retrieval under 27 broad subject headings. An annual newsletter, [CDL Update](#), informs users of the service of usage and other developments on the site. The web-based records show a trend of increased usage during the period under review. During January to April 2004, the CDL was accessed 3,229 times, with

84,786 items viewed. During the same period (January to April) in 2005 the CDL was accessed 9,336 times with 349,650 items viewed, i.e. the number of users almost tripled in one year and there was a fourfold increase in the number of documents viewed. The increase might be attributable to the fact that every available opportunity was used to promote the CDL. Brochures and bookmarks were distributed and presentations made to several forums.

In an effort to ensure the continuous development of the CDL, the Secretariat carried out an assessment on the use of the CDL and its technical and management structure as a model for similar initiatives. The report entitled “*An assessment of the Caribbean Digital Library*”, LC/CAR/R.80, published in July 2004, pointed out that the capability of the technology to extend user access to information should be explored fully. While the CKMC manages and provides users with two significant information resources, the Bibliographic Database and the CDL, are not offered as a package. Access to both the CDL and the bibliographic database will offer the user an expanded view on his/her information request. A seamless linkage which gives the user access to both resources, i.e., the Bibliographic Database and the CDL, (with a clear statement of what is full text and what is not) when a search is conducted, may be an improvement. In addition, a clear statement to the user of the difference in result, between selecting a major subject heading and searching by using index terms, should be included on the main page.

3.1.2 Current Awareness Bulletin

- a) The Secretariat continues to produce the bimonthly publication *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)*. The Bulletin provides national planners, policy makers, researchers and libraries with up-to-date information on regional, economic and social issues. The Current Awareness Bulletin is also made accessible through the Website, www.eclacpos.org, with links to abstracts of some documents where available
- b) Other bibliographic databases include:
 - ECLAC Bibliographic Catalogue
 - ICT Profiles and
 - Development profiles

3.1.3 Current Contents

The Secretariat also continues to produce the monthly newsletter *Current Contents*, which provides users with an insight into the contents of journals, and other publications recently received in the CKMC.

3.1.4 Publications

- a) The publication “*Obstacles to implementing the Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society*”, LC/CAR/L.5, published in March 2004, critically explores, from the perspective of the Caribbean, what the transition to a Caribbean Information Society would entail in practical terms. It links the goals

of the Information Society to the development goals of the subregion and discusses what conditions must exist if the potential benefits associated with the information society are to be realised. In this context the recently concluded first session of the WSIS is discussed. Current and potential obstacles to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action are identified and recommendations advanced as to how these obstacles might be overcome

- b) The study “*Youth, unemployment and the Caribbean Information Society: A challenge and an opportunity*”, LC/CAR/L.13, published May 2004, explores an approach to tackling the challenge of youth unemployment that focuses on the information and communications technology sector and on nurturing the entrepreneurial initiatives of young persons. For the purpose of this paper, "youth" is defined as persons between the ages of 15 and 25. This group comprises roughly 25 per cent of the labour force of the English-speaking Caribbean. Unemployed youth are persons in this age group actively seeking work. Two case studies are included by way of illustration.
- c) In preparation for the WSIS, held in Tunis, November 2005, the CKMC prepared the *Information and Communication Technology in the Caribbean.: Stocktaking report*, LC/CAR/L.56. Based mainly on documents found on the web and supplemented by interviews with relevant authorities in each country and information from other miscellaneous sources, this report provides an account of the progress made towards building an information society in the Caribbean. The initial focus is on government responsiveness with special focus on the implementation of the decisions arrived at the Geneva session of the WSIS but other elements will be added as time and resources permit.

3.1.5 Training

The CKMC, as a part of its contribution to the annual conference of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) conducted a training workshop entitled “*The Caribbean Digital Library: A cooperative approach to digital content creation and management*” in Port-of-Spain on 27 May 2004. Forty one persons attended this workshop.

3.1.6 Meetings

In preparation for the meetings on the World Summit of the Information Society, two meetings were convened:

- a) “*The Caribbean Forum on the Information Society*”, Port-of- Spain, 20-21 October 2004 was convened as part of the preparatory work towards the next session of the WSIS in Tunis in 2005. A *Report on the Caribbean Forum on the Information Society*, LC/CAR/L.30, was issued in January 2005.

- b) *Expert Group Meeting on the Caribbean Information Society*, Port of Spain, 11 May 2005.

3.2 Statistics

During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to collect economic and some elements of social statistics to service the information needs of staff in the office and researchers in the Caribbean and beyond.

3.2.1 Statistical indicators

- a) The subprogramme continued to issue the *Selected Statistical Indicators*. Vol. XVI, LC/CAR/L.33 and Vol.XVII,LC/CAR/L.74. The data collected have been re-cast into a form that is amenable to relational database query. At present, most of the time series have been transformed to database format, which will allow remote users to build the table that they wish to compile.
- b) The study entitled “*Measuring the information society in the Caribbean: An assessment of the capabilities of statistical offices in CDCC member States*”, LC/CAR/L.32, published in March 2005, investigates the importance which National Statistical Offices in the subregion place on the collection of these indicators and assesses the stage reached by member countries in collecting and publishing some of these basic indicators. Responses were received from 14 of the 22 countries surveyed at the time of preparing this paper. There was considerable variation among member countries with regard to the number of indicators collected and their ability to collect the data
- c) The document *Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts, Vol. VIII, 2005*, LC/CAR/L.49, provides an overview of statistical publications produced by the subregion. It is published biennially and, for each statistical document listing, details the name of its publisher, the frequency of its publication, any ISSN document reference and an abstract of its contents
- d) The study on the *Statistical infrastructure of Caribbean countries*, LC/CAR/L.69, provides a snapshot of the legal, institutional and budgetary framework existing in these countries. A survey will be conducted to provide information on staff qualifications and training, available equipment and an inventory of data series collected and published.

3.2.2 CARIBTRADE

- a) CARIBTRADE is the Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The database was inspired by the need to provide a wide variety of users with rapid answers to their queries on trade statistics of the Caribbean countries. It is user-friendly and comprehensive in its capabilities. The database provides analysis of the trade data

in a relatively novel manner by addressing strategic options, given a country's recent trade performance.

- b) The data have been normalized to make them as comparable as possible. The database presence on the Internet is ECLAC's contribution to creating more widespread access to critical data that has, in the past, not been as generally available as the present offering.
- c) The following countries are included in the present database: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

3.2.3 Trade statistics database

- a) The Secretariat continued its efforts to assist member countries in addressing perennial problems in the production and dissemination of timely trade information, which, in some cases results in a severe lag in the availability of the data, thus posing difficulties for planners and researchers. In response, the Secretariat successfully completed the implementation of the project NET/00/081: *Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean* [development of a trade database], with support from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- b) The main objective of the project was the establishment of a trade database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the provision of support at the national level in selected Caribbean countries' statistical offices. It has established general agreement on data collection protocols and common definitions, categories and classifications for various trade characteristics.
- c) Details on this project are provided in a separate report on the implementation of projects.
- d) The database was formally launched to the public on 16 April 2004, at a specially convened meeting: – Instruments of Trade Analysis and Negotiation: Introducing the CARIBTRADE database. The report of the meeting LC/CAR/L.16 was published in June 2004

3.2.4 Technical assistance

Technical assistance was provided mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. In the area of census preparation, assistance was provided to the English-speaking Caribbean countries, through the CARICOM Secretariat, in planning for the Year 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics also responded to several requests for support for member countries and regional institutions.

In this regard, technical assistance mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems, was provided to Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba and Montserrat through the Ministry of Planning.

4. SUBJECT AREA 12.4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A major aspect of its work in this subject area was on promoting environmental sustainability taking into account the major sustainable development preoccupations of a number of Caribbean SIDS. All these activities were developed in the context of the implementation of the SIDS POA and related international decisions. They reflect a clear recognition of the close relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on environmental sustainability and on the SIDS POA.

The programme of work under this subject area, to date, focused mainly on issues related to the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005. This included those activities in preparation for attendance at the meeting and follow-up actions emanating from the international meeting.

The increasing vulnerability of all Caribbean SIDS to natural disasters has been a concern for the subprogramme for many years. In this regard, the ECLAC methodology used to assess the impact of such events was revised to take into account this vulnerability. To this end, the Secretariat has embarked on a series of training programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of Caribbean SIDS for the effective use of the methodology. It is hoped that these countries would be able to respond rapidly by putting into place recovery and reconstruction programmes in the wake of such disasters. It is also expected that this activity would lead to the introduction of disaster risk reduction programmes. To date, the Secretariat has conducted assessments of the impact of natural disasters in the Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica and conducted training in Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia for the OECS Secretariat.

The Secretariat also successfully completed a project on the development of marine-based tourism, as it relates to the yachting sector. This was carried out through the technical cooperation agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and ECLAC.

4.1 World Summit on Sustainable Development

A number of activities were undertaken in preparing regional governments to participate in the Mauritius International Meeting. This included preparation of documents for use at the Caribbean Regional Meeting, convened in Trinidad and Tobago, 6-10 October 2004 and the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of

the Barbados Programme of Action, which took place in the Bahamas, 26-30 January 2004. A follow-up meeting was held in St. Kitts and Nevis, 5-7 October 2005.

One of the main publications was document LC/CAR/L.2, “*Caribbean subregional preparations for the international meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados POA for the sustainable development of SIDS*”, published in March 2004. The document was prepared against the backdrop of the process established in General Assembly resolution 57/262. This document reviews the mode of execution, as well as the results of the activities of Caribbean SIDS, members of the CDCC, in preparation for the International Meeting which was convened during the period 10-14 January 2005, in Mauritius.

The *Caribbean regional meeting to follow up on implementation of the Mauritius Strategy* was held in St Kitts and Nevis, 5-7 October 2005. The aim of the meeting was to capitalize on the renewed interest of member countries and to develop the actions coming out of the Mauritius International Meeting. Taking into account that the international community had committed to assist the SIDS, it was imperative that the Caribbean needed to further the goal of sustainable development in the subregion, more so, since sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility. To this end, the meeting set about to generate greater awareness and understanding at all levels, of the importance of the Barbados PoA and the Mauritius International Strategy. There was also the expectation that the deliberations would serve to insist on the need for building resilience.

4.2 Caribbean Sea

The subject of the Caribbean Sea has engaged the interest of many delegations since 1997 and has been the subject of four General Assembly resolutions. The Secretariat continued to address issues which it considers to be of valuable interest to the Caribbean SIDS. It has prepared two documents in the growing list of papers produced in this subject area:

- a) “*Recent developments in the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development*”, LC/CAR/L.3, was published in March 2004, summarily reviews developments since the eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC which convened on 10 April 2003, in relation to the proposal jointly spearheaded by ECLAC and the ACS and currently before the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.
- b) Document LC/CAR/L.24, which reviews the “*Major issues in the management of enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, with particular reference to the Caribbean Sea*” was published in November 2004 and noted the major common issues encountered in the management of enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, as defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with reference to the Baltic, the Beijing Sea, the North Sea, the Okhotsk Sea, the South China Sea and the Sulawesi Sea.

- c) The Secretariat prepared the follow-up paper entitled *Recent developments in relation to the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development*.

4.3 SIDS

At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, a decision was taken to convene an international meeting in 2004 to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the POA, as called for in the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The resolution established a preparatory process for the international meeting, including regional and interregional meetings and made repeated reference to the role of regional commissions in this process.

In this regard, the Secretariat has embarked on a programme of identifying new elements for implementation which would enhance familiarity with the sustainable development process and, at the same time, serve as a basis for evaluating the relevance of the several recommendations from the WSSD to SIDS of all regions. This process will include a re-examination of existing work programmes and the outcome of any implementation efforts arising from the identification process. This is reflected in the paper *Issues in the development of a mechanism for the coordination of the further implementation of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.50.

4.4 Environmental information management

The Secretariat continues its work in developing and maintaining a sustainable development database, which provides a substantive description of ongoing and planned SIDS-related projects and programmes in the Caribbean.

4.5 Disaster assessments and training workshops

The Secretariat continued its programme of providing support to member countries, upon request, in the preparation of assessments as a consequence of natural disasters. Thus far in the present biennium, the Secretariat has responded to six requests for disaster assessment assistance. These actions have been followed up by training workshops to ensure that the relevant technocrats were sufficiently trained in applying the methodology to assess the impact of the natural disasters soon after they occur.

4.5.1 Disaster assessment

- a) In an effort to ensure the usefulness of the assessment reports, the Secretariat, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), completed a study on the "*Comparison of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters on Caribbean societies in 2004*" LC/CAR/L.39. The study assessed the socio-economic impact of natural hazards on the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and Haiti.

- b) At the request of UNDP and the Government of Jamaica, ECLAC conducted an assessment of the damages caused by Hurricane Ivan during October 2004. The findings of the assessment were contained in the report "*Assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of Hurricane Ivan on Jamaica*" LC/CAR/L.22, published 20 October 2004. With support from the Mexico Office.
- c) With support from the IDB, and at the request from the Government of the Bahamas, the ECLAC team presented the government with the preliminary report "*Hurricane Frances and Jeanne in 2004 – Their impact in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas*", LC/CAR/L.23 published 16 November 2004. With support from the Mexico Office.
- d) At the request of UNDP and the Government of the Cayman Islands, a technical mission was dispatched to the Cayman Islands in November 2004, to conduct an assessment of the damages caused by Hurricane Ivan. Both UNDP and the government were provided with an "*Assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of Hurricane Ivan on the Cayman Islands*", LC/CAR/L.25, published 1 December 2004. With support from the Mexico Office.
- e) At the request of UNDP and the Government of Haiti, ECLAC completed the preliminary report "*Hurricane Frances and Jeanne in 2004 – Their impact in Haiti*", LC/CAR/L.27 published in December 2004. This assessment mission was coordinated by the Mexico Office.
- f) As a result of the severe flooding which submerged the most populous parts of Guyana, the Government of Guyana requested the services of ECLAC to conduct a full scale assessment of the damages. With funding provided by UNDP, the Secretariat undertook a full assessment of the event during the period 27 February to 10 March 2005 and produced the document "*Guyana: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by the January-February 2005 flooding*," LC/CAR/L.31, published on 31 March 2005.

4.5.2 Tourism issues

- a) In response to the work carried out in the yachting sector, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago requested support for the preparation of *Tobago Yachting Study*, LC/CAR/L.42
- b) The subprogramme prepared the document *Issues and Challenges in Caribbean Cruise Ship Tourism*, LC/CAR/L.75. This is an initial study on the challenges and issues that the Caribbean faces in light of the increasing market share of cruise ship tourism versus other forms of tourism. The study gives a description of the sector and then identifies some of the challenges facing the region and concludes with recommendations to overcome the challenges

4.5.3 Training workshops and manuals

At a special workshop in Port of Spain, 6-7 July 2004, conducted by the Secretariat, the ECLAC methodology used to carry out assessments caused by natural disasters was evaluated and revised to take into account the special needs of SIDS. The findings of the workshop are contained in the “*Report on workshop on disaster valuation ECLAC’s methodology and preparation of a revised training manual*”, LC/CAR/L.17, published 19 July 2004. The “*Disaster assessment training manual for SIDS*”, LC/CAR/L.12 was produced in April 2004.

During the biennium three training workshops were conducted:

- a) The first was a “*Workshop on disaster valuation using ECLAC’s methodology*” conducted in Washington D.C., 13–17 April 2004. The workshop, convened by ECLAC, attracted 10 persons mainly from the IDB disaster assessment team. Coordinated by the Mexico office.
- b) Following the successful implementation of the ECLAC methodology, the Belizean authorities requested a refresher course in the disaster valuation methodology. This was facilitated by ECLAC during the period 21 May to 4 June 2004 when 50 persons participated in the second course conducted in Belize.
- c) Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in the Cayman Islands, the UNDP made an urgent request for ECLAC to conduct a training workshop on the use of the ECLAC methodology. A wide cross-section of the community participated in the session which took place during the period 18 – 22 April 2005.
- d) Fifty-one persons participated in the national training workshop on the use of the Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS in assessing the Macro-economic and Social Impacts of Natural Disasters, which was held in Port of Spain, 6-9 June 2005.
- e) At the request of the OECS Secretariat, a special training workshop was conducted on the use of the Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS in assessing the Macro-economic and Social Impacts of Natural Disasters, in Saint Lucia, 23-24 June 2005.

4.4 **Project implementation**

The project NET/00/79: *Development of a Regional Marine-based Tourism Strategy [study on the yachting industry]* was successfully completed on 30 June 2004. All documents produced during the term of the project are included in the Compilation CD titled “*Yachting in the Eastern Caribbean – A regional overview*”, LC/CAR/G.775 produced 9 April 2004. It was observed that while some progress had been made on the environmental sustainability of land-based tourism much less progress was made on marine-based tourism, more so, the yachting subsector. As a means of addressing this problem, the Secretariat obtained financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to fund a project.

4.5 Technical assistance

During the period under review, the Secretariat continued to provide assistance, upon request, to member countries in conducting studies and providing other types of support. Request in the area of developing a programme in the tourism and yachting sectors have been received from Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and the Grenadines and private sector organizations.

5 SUBJECT AREA 12.5: APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

The work related to science and technology is based on research geared towards the development of programmes in science popularisation; policy considerations and institution building and strengthening; and new technologies and their impact on development are all elements of the technical assistance programmes that are rendered to member and associate member countries in their efforts at industrial, economic and human resource development, and the role that science and technology plays in these efforts.

Bearing in mind that a new approach has been suggested for the development and expansion of the productive sectors in the subregion, the Secretariat prepared two studies discussing these new approaches.

The implementation of the approved programme of work in this subject area was disrupted when the incumbent officer retired. In the interim, the Secretariat utilised the services of temporary staff in carrying out aspects of the programme of work.

5.1 Development of new technologies in the Caribbean

- a) The document *Survey of potentially new technologies that will impact on Caribbean development*, LC/CAR/L.14, May 2004, provides some insight as to the options in new technologies in the fields of agriculture, natural resource management, water resource management, forestry, fisheries and energy, all areas that are crucial to sustainable development in the region
- b) With respect to the technological innovation and competitiveness in the Caribbean, the subprogramme prepared the paper *Caribbean tourism and agriculture: Linking to enhance development and competitiveness*, LC/CAR/L.76. This study examines the current state of the tourism and agricultural sectors in Caribbean countries and proposed strategies for their future development. The tourism industry has in the past developed largely apart from other sectors such as agriculture. On the other hand, agriculture has developed mainly to satisfy export markets. Domestic agriculture has had limited development and has therefore been displaced to a considerable extent by food imports. The recent promotion of agriculture tourism linkages is an attempt to enhance the local value added of the tourism industry while at the same time promoting the development of domestic

agriculture. The finding is that integrated development of tourism and agriculture is the approach that would facilitate the sustainable development of both sectors.

- c) The publication “*Sustainable agriculture and the development of the Amerindians in Guyana: The case of the Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Cocoa Project*”, LC/CAR/L.18, was published in August 2004. This study examined an organic cocoa project in Guyana in order to determine the prospects for development of an indigenous people in the hinterland area of Hosororo.

5.2 Science and technology policies

There has been a resurgence of interest in science and technology in the Caribbean, probably driven by the late realisation that merely to survive in a globalized world and the changing dynamics in technological developments would require the judicious application of scientific knowledge for technological choice, adaptation and innovation. As a consequence, it became almost imperative that the subregion revisit its science and technology policy.

- a) In response, the subprogramme prepared the *Report on science and technology infrastructure and policy in selected member and associate member countries of the CDCC*, LC/CAR/L.45. It is hoped that such a policy will provide the framework for the decisions to be made and the basis of such policies will be an understanding of the institutional infrastructure which exists or should exist. The study identifies these parameters as a basis for discussion and recommendation.
- b) The report formed the basis for discussions at the ECLAC Expert Group Meeting to review the development of science and technology in the Caribbean subregion, held in Port of Spain, 11 May 2005. All participants agreed that the proposed S&T policy would be considered by all member countries for further discussion.
- c) Another study which contributes to the discussion on the formation of a science and technology policy is entitled *New technologies and methodologies for intervention to promote development*, LC/CAR/L.59. The paper notes that the challenge of successfully transferring environmentally sustainable technologies must be seen in the context of sustainable development. It continues that sustainable development does not have to restrict growth but can stimulate the emergence of a vibrant, industrial economy, a process in which technology transfer is likely to play a major role. Sustainable industrialisation is especially a challenge for developing countries, because their low initial level of development provides them with an opportunity to follow a technological trajectory which can be cleaner and more efficient than the path Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries have followed.

5.3 Information dissemination

The Secretariat continued to issue an online version of the "Info Bits" newsletter which provides information on selected topics on science and technology.

5.4 Technical assistance

Technical assistance continues to be offered, upon request, to member countries and to regional and subregional institutions.

6 SUBJECT AREA 12.6: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Activities carried out under this subject area cover the full range of social development activities. This includes work carried out in women's affairs, social development, poverty, issues related to accelerating gender equality, ageing, violence and youth, domestic violence, social vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS, inter and intraregional migration, and the provision of support to member countries on request. It also involves the updating and enhancement of their national poverty reduction surveys as well as the related poverty-related policies and programmes

An activity of significant interest was the attention being given to the social consequences of natural disasters. As a result, all assessments on natural disasters include a component on the social impact of the event. The Secretariat continues to support the initiatives of subregional organizations and agencies, such as the OECS, the United Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and CARICOM in advancing the research in the social development arena

6.1 Global conferences

The ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat continues to provide substantive and operational support to member countries in follow-up activities related to the global conferences with respect to social development.

6.1.1 Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+ 10)

- a) The Secretariat continues to monitor activities related to the ICPD process. In this regard, it convened the Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing, as a follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, which took place in Port of Spain, 8-10 November 2004. The meeting was a joint effort with UWI, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of Social Development, Government Trinidad and Tobago. Report of meeting, LC/CAR/L.41

- b) A key document for the above-named meeting was the study “*Population Ageing in the Caribbean: Longevity and quality of life*”, LC/CAR/L.26, published 8 December 2004, which focused on the living conditions of the elderly in the Caribbean. The data on the situation of the elderly are still scarce in the Caribbean, in spite of the fact that the region has, outside Europe and North America, the highest percentage of elderly people. In order to bridge this knowledge gap, a survey on the living conditions of the elderly population will be conducted in one (or two) CDCC member countries.

6.1.2 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) – WSSD+10

- a) The follow-up to the WSSD continues through technical assistance provided mainly in the area of poverty reduction strategies and the monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies through an evidence-based approach. A follow-up meeting was held in the third quarter 2005.
- b) The Secretariat has developed a training manual and materials; and has conducted orientation sessions for Cabinet-appointed committees and training sessions for senior technocrats and members of civil society in developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and Action Plan using a Human Development Agenda framework. To date, three such sessions have been facilitated and the final processes are underway for the completion of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Completion was scheduled for the third quarter of 2005.

6.1.3 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +10)

- a) In 2004, the Secretariat convened the *Fourth Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women: Review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action*, in St Vincent and the Grenadines, during the period 11-13 February 2004. The meeting was co-sponsored by UNIFEM, CIDA and CARICOM and focused on three thematic areas: (a) poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity; (b) empowerment and institutional building from a gender perspective; and (c) sexual and reproductive health with particular reference to HIV/AIDS. The proceedings of the Ministerial meeting are reported in document LC/CAR/L.1 published on 24 March 2004 and a revised version was issued on 20 January 2005.
- b) In relation to the theme of empowerment and institutional building, the Secretariat commissioned and supervised a review of the national machineries for women for carrying out the mandate of the Beijing Platform for Action. The meeting convened on 11 February 2004, and concluded that a Caribbean strategy for accelerating gender equality should focus on strengthening capacity, networking and influencing policy makers. The proceedings of the meeting, its conclusions and recommendations are published in the document LC/CAR/L.29.

- c) The Secretariat also presented papers on poverty and sexual and reproductive health with a focus on HIV/AIDS. The paper on HIV/AIDS focused on the possible gender factors that explained the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS among women and girls of the subregion.
- d) Following the deliberations and proposals of the delegates, the final document *The Kingstown Way Forward: Recommendations and conclusions* was adopted unanimously. Through this Declaration, delegates adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening the process towards the attainment of gender equality, social justice and development in the subregion with particular reference to women.
- e) The Secretariat completed the preparation of the study *Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action*, LC/CAR/L.80. The study analyses the progress made by the Caribbean in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in five critical areas prioritized by Caribbean governments : women and poverty ; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; violence against women, women and health and women in power and decision-making

6.2 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- a) At present, the Secretariat is engaged in monitoring the indicators related to the MDGs. As part of the exercise, the Secretariat participated in the launch of the MDGs report for Barbados and the OECS and Review of Interim and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (*PRSPs/I-PRSPs*). The Meeting was convened in Barbados by the UNDP, 31 March - 1 April 2005.
- b) The Secretariat prepared the study *An Assessment of Social vulnerability and Resilience in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs/I-PRSPs) of Selected Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/L.72. The study undertakes a review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (I-PRSPs) of four selected SIDS from the Eastern Caribbean. The countries had participated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy initiative formulated by the World Bank. The country papers reviewed were the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The review assessed and provided a comparative analysis of the general awareness of the notions of vulnerability and the inclusion and use of strategies that address the reduction of vulnerability by the countries reviewed. It also explores how vulnerability reduction strategies were applied to differing groups, as elaborated through the PRSPs.
- c) Another document, *Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs: An examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/G.776, discussed the challenges faced by Caribbean countries in producing and managing data. It examined and analysed infrastructural capacity

and key data issues, and also explored requirements for capacity-building in the field of social statistics in the subregion. These documents can be accessed at www.eclacpos.org

6.3 2005 World Summit

In response to requests from member countries, the Secretariat convened a *High-level follow-up meeting to the UNGA 60th Session 2005 World Summit: Strengthening social development; the way forward*. The meeting sought to provide an opportunity for experts in the field of social development in the Caribbean to consider strategic actions that could be recommended to advance the intentions of the Summit at the subregional and national levels. This was in keeping with the mandate given to ECLAC by the World Summit as stated in paragraph 155 of the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, “*Strengthening Social Development: The Way Forward for Caribbean SIDS*”. Meeting Report: LC/CAR/L.62

6.4 Migration

- a) The Secretariat completed the study *Migration in the Caribbean: What do we know?* LC/CAR/L.54. The study presents an overview of data, policies and programmes at the international and regional levels to address critical issues and includes additional aspects of migration, such as human rights, the spread of HIV/AIDS and migration. The paper was used as a background document for the expert meeting on migration in 2005 and will provide critical input into a background document currently prepared by the ECLAC Population Division, CELADE, in preparation for the General Assembly high level dialogue on migration in 2006.
- c) This study follows the initial paper which focused on labour movements in the subregion, including a case study of emigration of health professionals in Trinidad and Tobago with the aim of analysing the impact of the massive exodus of nurses on the public-health system.
- d) In this regard, working relationships have been established with the Commonwealth Secretariat and PAHO/WHO in Barbados which are currently undertaking an assessment of the scope of emigration of nurses and its socio-economic implications on the public health systems in the subregion. Also with the WHO Department of Health and Development, which conducts crucial analysis in the assessment of trade in health services.
- e) Following extensive review of the migration paper and other issues pertaining to the topic of migration, the Secretariat convened an *Expert group meeting on migration, human rights and development*, 14-15 September 2005 in Port of Spain. The objectives of the meeting of experts was to provide a forum for substantive discussions of key aspects of intraregional and international migration in the Caribbean with the aim of seeking concrete ways to realize the benefits of

international migration for development of this subregion. The considerations further addressed the challenges caused by these migration streams and international migration particularly in relation to the brain-drain, the smuggling and trafficking of persons, return-migration and deportations. The questions of globalization and the definition of a Caribbean identity along with various strategies to manage migration in the region were also discussed

- f) The proceedings of the meetings were presented in the document *Regional and international migration in the Caribbean and its impact on social development in the region: Compendium on recent research on migration in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.61.

6.5 Social vulnerability

Under this thematic area, the subprogramme continues to provide support to those countries wishing to introduce social vulnerability modules in either the CWIQ Surveys being undertaken or in the development of the Survey of Living Conditions (SLCs). To complement this work, the subprogramme prepared and disseminated the following documentation:

- a) The report on *Challenges in the social sector confronting Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/L.7, presents the main challenges in the area of social development which have been identified by governments in the subregion. In that regard the areas selected for discussion were the population dynamics of the Caribbean SIDS; unequal gender relations and its effects on the spread of HIV/AIDS; and emerging issues in poverty reduction such as poverty and ethnicity, evidenced-based policy formulation and social vulnerability.
- b) The Secretariat convened a seminar “*Reporting on the Results of the Social Vulnerability Index*”, in Port of Spain, 24-25 June 2004 to launch the CSSD and to present the results of the pilot test of the SVI for five countries in the Caribbean: Belize, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The report of the meeting, LC/CAR/L.35
- c) The paper *Caribbean small States, vulnerability and development*, LC/CAR/L.60, was initially presented to the 7th SALISES Conference, 17-18 March 2005. It revisits issues of size and development, explores notions of vulnerability and provides an overview of the efforts undertaken to measure vulnerability. The paper concludes that if policy makers would reduce the social vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS then overall vulnerability would be reduced and this should result in improved chances for sustainable development.
- d) As a result of the colossal damages caused by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), carried out an assessment of the impact on the social sector in that country. The study *Grenada: A gender impact assessment of Hurricane Ivan – Making the invisible visible*,

LC/CAR/L.48, presents the findings of a gender impact assessment that was undertaken during the period 13-19 February, 2005 approximately five months after the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada. The paper concluded that the existing gender inequities in the society rendered women and their dependent children uniquely vulnerable to the impact of Hurricane Ivan.

6.6 Gender and HIV/AIDS

During this biennium, there was an increased interest in the work on HIV/AIDS. One particular area of focus was on gender relations among youth and the implications for cross-cutting policies. In reality, there was a general absence of in-depth work in the field gender analysis in HIV/AIDS policies in the subregion and a lack of cross-cutting policies to address gender socialisation practices which contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

- a) In response to these shortcomings, the Secretariat completed a *Gender review and assessment of HIV/Aids programming of selected national AIDS programmes in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.58, which offers an assessment of HIV/AIDS policies and programmes in three Caribbean countries: Guyana, Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago through the conduct of a gender analysis of official documentation of HIV/AIDS policies and through interviews with government officials and other key stakeholders. One of the main findings of the study was that decision makers and persons responsible for the formulation of HIV/AIDS policies did not demonstrate adequate awareness of the impact of gender on the issue of HIV/AIDS and, as such, gender was not adequately incorporated into existing policies and programmes. This was particularly with a view to developing cross-cutting policies.
- b) With respect to the growing concerns on the impact on youth, the Secretariat prepared a *Study on possible gender factors that explain the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS among young women in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.79. The study presents an overview of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean with particular reference to its incidence and prevalence, modes of transmission (of HIV), age distribution and trends observed among women and girls. It further explores the role of gender in the spread of HIV in the Caribbean, particularly among women and girls, and examines how gender and gender relations affect women's and girls' access to their rights and how this in turn increases their vulnerability to HIV infection.
- c) The preliminary findings of the study were presented to an Inter-agency Roundtable in July 2004 in Barbados. Given the interest of the subject matter, the paper was used as an input into the 2006 issue of the ECLAC Social Panorama

6.7 Gender and macroeconomic policy

The Secretariat has been implementing a project *Integrating Gender into Macroeconomic Policy* in an attempt to assist member countries to develop macroeconomic policies which are

compatible with the goals of gender equality in accordance with commitments outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Port of Spain Consensus and other consensus documents.

- a) ECLAC/CDCC, with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), undertook a needs assessment of economic planning units in four countries in the Caribbean: Belize, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The report *Needs assessment of Economic Planning Units in Gender Analysis in selected Caribbean countries*, LC/CAR/L.34, considered to what extent the countries under study have sought to integrate gender into macroeconomic planning, and what are the institutional, human resource capacity and attitudinal factors that facilitate or hinder such integration. The overall findings of the study point to a systematic absence of gender analysis. The study revealed some promising foundations on which future efforts at integration of gender into macroeconomic policy can build ranging from efforts at collection of time-use data in Trinidad and Tobago to the construction of a gender-sensitive accounting matrix in Suriname.
- b) The findings of this report were fully ventilated at the ECLAC/UNIFEM/CIDA Expert Group Meeting on capacity building in gender analysis for economic planners in the Caribbean, held in Port of Spain, 6-7 December 2004. Specific recommendations were adopted to assist the process.

6.8 Gender indicators

Since 2000, ECLAC, Santiago, has been implementing, with financial support from the Government of Italy, UNIFEM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an inter-agency project *Use of Gender Indicators in Public Policy Making*. In September 2004 with the financial support of UNFPA, this project was extended to the Caribbean for the construction of gender indicators that were comparable to those being developed in Latin America. Datasets for the construction of the indicators, where possible, were drawn from the CSSD. In all, 63 indicators were selected for construction. Due to issues related to data availability, 14 of the 23 ECLAC/CDCC member countries were targeted. The indicators are to be presented on the ECLAC website.

6.9 Development of Social Statistical Databases

The Secretariat successfully completed the implementation of the Dutch-funded project *Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States*, NET/00/035. The project, funded by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, ended on 30 June 2004.

- a) The main objective of the project was to improve the social conditions of persons living in CDCC member countries through the development of fully searchable social statistical databases at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain.

- b) An evaluation of the project was presented to an ECLAC/CDCC Seminar: Reporting on the Results of the Social Vulnerability Index in Port of Spain on 23-24 June 2004. The report of the meeting is available as document LC/CAR/L.35.
- c) Further work is continuing on the development of the SVI and on the maintenance of the CSSD.
- d) The database is available via the web at cssdbs.eclacpos.org.

6.10 Newsletters

6.10.1 Gender Dialogue Newsletter

The Secretariat publishes the newsletter *Gender Dialogue* in response to calls from participants at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Trinidad in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women.

6.11 Database on Women and Development

Taking into account the interest in the work of women in the subregion, the Secretariat prepared and disseminated the document *Women in Development Bibliography 2001-1005*, LC/CAR/L.53. The document presents an updated list for the period 2001-2005. The bibliography includes both Caribbean and non-Caribbean references from serial publications, monographs, and less widely distributed documents such as technical reports and conference papers which strengthen research and analytical capacity.

6.12 Technical assistance

During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration and regional cooperation among member countries, on request.

