

Caribbean Expert Group Meeting on Human Rights
and Development in the Caribbean
14-15 September 2005
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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**REPORT ON THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON MIGRATION,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The expert group meeting on migration, human rights and development was held on 14-15 September 2005 and was hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Present at the meeting were representatives of: Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME); Centre de Technique de Planification et d'Economie Applique (CTPEA); Department of Public Health, Aruba; International Labour Organization (ILO), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Office of the Caribbean Programme Coordination; the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Jamaica; the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI); ECLAC's Population Division (CELADE); the Population Division, Department of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations; Displaced Nationals in Crisis Coalition (DNICC). The complete list of participants is available in the annex.

2. OPENING

Karoline Schmid, Population Affairs Officer, ECLAC subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, opened the meeting and welcomed the experts from different countries and organizations.

Esteban Pérez, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC, greeted the participants on behalf of the Director. He stated that the general purpose of the meeting was to deepen the understanding of key conceptual and practical issues related to migration and to delineate a Caribbean perspective for the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development scheduled for 2006. He pointed out that international migration was one of the main subjects on which the United Nations had to expand its knowledge, sharpen its focus and act more effectively. He then gave a brief introduction of the topic, stating that because there were almost 200 million migrants worldwide; migration had become a major social phenomenon with socio-economic implications for almost every society. The issue was of utmost importance to the Caribbean region, since this region had one of the highest net-migration rates worldwide. Major United Nations conferences over the past decade had also addressed migration as a critical issue. With a focus on population and development, the *International Conference on Population and Development* (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 touched on all aspects of internal and international migration such as smuggling and trafficking of persons, brain drain, returning migrants, deportations, border security and the orderly movement of people across international borders in recognition of their basic human rights.

Furthermore, he mentioned that a resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on international migration and development - where it decided that in 2006 the General Assembly would commit to a *high-level dialogue on international migration and development* - played a significant role in this issue. The outcome of this expert group meeting would become a substantive part of the document on 'Migration, Human Rights and Development' that was being prepared by CELADE. The document would be presented at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee at the ECLAC thirty-first session in 2006. The meeting was also expected to shed additional light on the kinds of analyses that would further the understanding of the multifaceted aspects of migration and should help to broaden public awareness on surrounding fundamental issues related to migration. Finally he thanked all participants for making the event possible and stated that ECLAC looked forward to two days of productive deliberations.

Migration in the Caribbean – What do we know?

The following is a summary of the document ‘Migration in the Caribbean – What do we know? An overview of data, policies and programmes at the international and regional levels to address critical issues’.

Historically, migration has always influenced socio-economic development all over the world. Various international events had determined the flow of migrants, such as the oil-boom in the 1970s, the global crisis in the energy sector in the 1980s and growing tourism in the 1990s. Furthermore, globalization has been promoting the free movement of goods and people, which has led to a growing number of migrants worldwide. This was a special challenge to political organizations and governments, taking into consideration critical issues like brain drain and brain-gain, the spread of HIV/AIDS, drug trafficking and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants and their families. Most countries allowed the free movement of their citizens across national borders but apply rigorous mechanisms to control the inflow of foreign people.

The main sources for data on cross-border movements were, therefore, border statistics, population census and household surveys. The fact that data from various sources were often not fully compatible because of the application of different concepts of what constituted a migrant, made it almost impossible to provide a complete account of the in- and outflow of people across its borders. A particularly challenge was the monitoring of the cross-border movements of undocumented and irregular migrants.

The main push-factors for migrants in the Caribbean region were deteriorating economic and social conditions, high unemployment and little hope for improvement of living conditions, whereby migration could be understood intra-regionally – the movement to one of the more prosperous Caribbean Islands - or internationally, that was out of the region. Remittances sent by migrants provided important benefits to the immediate family members as well as to the national economy of the receiving country. However, many of the migrants remain temporary workers and when their visas expire or their status changed otherwise, they easily ran the risk of becoming deported at any given time or of losing access to health care services and education for themselves and their families. This was also a particular problem for undocumented migrants who, in fear of being expelled, often hide in inaccessible squatters and illegal settlements. Whereas some governments prefer the exodus of their laborers in exchange for desired remittances to boost their economies, many countries suffer tremendous constraints in their capacities to provide equal, qualitative and affordable social services to their populations.

Caribbean countries were source, transit and final destination of migrants. Depending on the specific aspects of migration affecting a certain country, generally determines how Caribbean Governments viewed the in- and outflow of people to and from their country. According to United Nations figures only five out of 16 countries reported in 2000 that they perceived immigration as too high and, in total, six countries reported that they wished to lower the inflow of non-nationals. With regard to the readiness to allow family members of migrants to join, the greater part of the countries in the region seemed to want to restrict the inflow of dependants of already recognized migrants. This was most probably a consequence of increasing demands of family members to be granted access to rather costly basic social services, such as health care and education in the host country.

While immigration seemed to affect only a select few countries, the loss of their people and its consequences appeared to impact on the majority of Caribbean nations. A closer look at the emigration of nurses from Trinidad and Tobago provided an example of the manifest consequences the brain drain had for the public health sector in that country. The lack of a sophisticated

human resources management system did not allow for the monitoring of the staff movements to and from the system. Apart from a lack of modern human resources management tools, there were other aspects that had contributed to the present crisis in nursing not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but also in the entire region. The main push-factors for the nurses were inadequate remuneration and benefits, unfavourable working conditions, lack of management and leadership and insufficient career perspectives.

The ongoing depletion of professionals deprived the region of its desperately needed qualified staff whose education and training were often at a considerable expense to its taxpayers. The need to address the present nursing crisis was crucial since with the ageing of the population and the emerging HIV/AIDS crisis the demand for nursing care will increase considerably in the foreseeable future in the Caribbean.

The history of Belize migration and its impact on the composition of the present society was rather unique. In spite of generally declining fertility rates over the past 20 years, the population of Belize had grown from approximately 145,000 people to an estimated 240,000 people. This was due to the immigration of people from Central America who fled social unrest and who were looking for economic opportunities in this, the only English-speaking country in Central America. These drastic changes and their impact on the demographic profile of the population were a serious challenge to the country in terms of social issues such as education, health, poverty level and discrimination. In the case of Aruba, the government was actively promoting immigration due to insufficient domestic labor force supply, caused by the rapid growth in the tourism sector.

The paper concluded that globalization, modern means of communication and fast travel would encourage even more people to migrate. Further, gaps between the rich and the poor would promote migratory streams across borders, quite often against the expressed will of the receiving countries. In order to protect all migrants and to safeguard basic human rights of those affected, sustainable partnerships among all stakeholders were indispensable so as to find viable solutions to the challenges that migratory societies face in the twenty-first century.

Discussion

The CELADE representative requested figures on the migration of nurses from Trinidad and Tobago and/or Jamaica. The representative of the PAHO/CPC office stated that her office had been tracking this information over the past years, monitoring and addressing the issue with an attempt to manage migration. Nevertheless, numbers varied and the calculations for the Caribbean also depended on which countries were considered. She informed that the work to date was conducted with the CARICOM member States in collaboration with the Regional Nursing Body (RNB), Caribbean Nursing Organization (CNO), PAHO and other partners.

ECLAC stated that some information was available, for example in 2004 an estimated 30 nurses had migrated from Barbados. Even though the absolute numbers might not seem significant, one had to take into consideration the size of the population and the region's capacity to fill these vacancies. The representative of UWI, confirmed that the problem not only existed regarding the number but also the qualification of the nurses. She further stated that due to foreign recruitment of experienced nurses there was a lack of more senior staff nurses that had to be replaced by younger and less-experienced staff.

After a presentation of data on migration for the Caribbean for 1990 and 2000 the representative of the Population Division, Barry Mirkin observed that figures for 2005 would soon be available from the United Nations Population Division. The representative of CELADE men-

tioned that his division, within the context of ECLAC, was currently collaborating with CARICOM to improve the availability of quality data in a timely manner.

3. MIGRATION- WHAT DO WE KNOW? EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

Population projection model for small island countries, an illustration. Aruba 2003-2023

The following summary reflects the basic contents of the paper 'Population projection model for small island countries, an illustration. Aruba 2003-2023'.

The paper postulates that in the Caribbean, the size and composition of the population was often more determined by in and out-migration and only to a far lesser extent by levels of fertility and mortality, which are both considerably low with little fluctuation expected in the near future. This was due to the fact that the population of Aruba has already completed the demographic transition from relatively high birth- and death rates to lower levels in both rates.

The history of the small islands of the Caribbean shows that volume and direction of international migration depend almost entirely on the economic development of a given country. Countries with booming industries had traditionally attracted foreign labor while others in situations of economic, social and environmental distress had seen many of their people leave. As a consequence, the combination of fairly constant levels of mortality and fertility, an irregular age structure (due to either losses or gains of migrants of certain age groups) and very erratic patterns of migration (quite often a consequence of rapidly changing economic conditions in either the sending or receiving country) made it difficult to use the traditional cohort –component method¹ for population projections. As assumptions concerning levels of fertility and mortality had to be kept fairly constant, the assumptions on migratory movements in and out of the country are expected to almost completely determine the outcome of the population projections.

To prove these assumptions, the author presented the results of a regression analysis that showed a strong positive relationship between economic development (GDP growth rate) and population size for Aruba. The presenter concluded that, in order to model population projections for the year 2005 (t+5) based on the year 2000 (t), the labor force necessary to achieve a certain and predetermined level of GDP needs to be determined, taking into consideration labor productivity and domestic labor force available at a time t+5. Further, the natural increase of nationals and foreign born population, the labor force participation rates of local and foreign born persons, the international net migration of nationals and the number of foreigners already in the country need to be considered by the model.

Based on the assumptions outlined above, the expected natural growth rate (the balance between fertility and mortality) was expected to be rather moderate over the next 20 years in the case of Aruba. Therefore, in order to maintain the present level of economic growth, with considerable gaps between supply and demand for labor on the domestic labor market, the need for migrant workers will increase. As a consequence, Aruba has become a preferred destination for many migrants from Latin America, primarily from Colombia and Venezuela. Particularly the semi- and unskilled are attracted by the job-opportunities on the island and many are willing to put themselves to debt to afford the passage. According to the study, a total of 31,571 foreigners were living on Aruba in 2003 contributing almost one third to the population of that country. The model predicts that in order to realize a constant GDP growth of 4 per cent over the next two dec-

¹ The Cohort Component method was currently the most widely used projection model. It makes use of the balancing equation in which the population at time t+5 was equal to the population at time t plus the number of births and the number of immigrants and minus the number of deaths and emigrants between t and t+5. The calculation of the population at time t+20 was done in a segmented way, by using consecutive five-year age groups.

ades, a total of 69,312 foreign born workers would be needed. This would mean an increase of 120 per cent in the foreign population and diminish those born on the island to about one third of the resident population. While the sheer number of foreigners residing on the island was already a matter of concern for some, many more also begin to see the impact the age- and sex-structure of the arriving migrants has on the socio-demographic dynamics on the island. As was the case in many tourist destinations, the need for the influx of large numbers of women to work in the hotels and restaurants was considerably and quite often welcomed by the government. However, no consideration was given to look at the challenges such imbalanced flows pose on the societies in the receiving countries. The study on Aruba found a growing number of intermarriages between Aruban men and foreign women, which was not always well received by local women who see their chances to find a partner challenged.

Discussion

ECLAC asked if the GDP used in the model was nominal and the capital flow constant. The presenter explained that the model assumed a constant GDP and capital flows. He admitted that, due to the simplicity of his model, other aspects could not be taken into consideration in the model. Nevertheless, considering the constraints of the model and the lack of exact population figures, fairly reasonable results can be achieved.

The representative of the Population Division questioned the direct relationship between economic development and population growth by presenting the case of Europe where, in spite of the considerable high unemployment rates, there was still a need for a skilled workforce to meet specific labor force needs. The presenter responded that in the case of small economies, such as the Aruban, such a relationship seemed to be more stable and direct, since the performance of the domestic economy was mainly dependent on the tourist sector which again was dependent, to a large extent, on unskilled imported labor the country itself could not provide.

The PAHO representative added that the most mobile of the populations in the Caribbean appear to come from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The majority of those migrants were undocumented and therefore did not had access to basic social and health services, and thus ran a greater risk of either being infected or further spreading contagious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS or dengue.

Going back to the proposed model, the CSME representative pointed out that the projections did not estimate the absolute labor force needed to meet the domestic labor market demands and suggested that this to be taken into consideration in order to make the model more realistic.

International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Facts and findings

This summary is based on the document ‘International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Facts and findings’.

In the early years of the twenty-first century migration in Latin America and the Caribbean could be described in three patterns. The first relates to overseas immigration to Latin America, the second to intraregional migration and the third pattern was that of emigration by Latin American and Caribbean nationals, mainly to the United States. The first major inflow of migrants to Latin America in the second half of the nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century was a consequence of the economic expansion of the region, which brought along attractive jobs and wages. Migration data for 1990 and 2000 suggest a slight increase in absolute numbers of migrants moving within Latin America. While the first phase was characterized by

permanent movements, recent studies had shown that now temporary movements without are now the dominating form of migration in the region. Data on migration within the Caribbean region show that the absolute numbers of intraregional migrants has increased as a result of better of living conditions and job opportunities in some countries in the Caribbean as the main pull-factors. Also a growing trend to migrate to destinations outside the region could be observed with almost three quarters heading for the United States with the majority of the migrants from the wider Latin American region originating in Mexico and in the Caribbean. The presenter highlights the fact that migrants are a rather diverse group, a fact not always recognized in the analysis of aggregate data. Asymmetries in development processes along with gaps in wage levels and labor opportunities are found to be the main driving forces behind migration. Globalization and the opening of internal markets and easier access to more affordable means of transportation and communication are beneficial to potential migrants. Further, the relaxation of labor- and recruitment laws in the United States since the early 1980s has considerably facilitated access for foreign migrants to its labor market. While the United States has been the major recipient of migrants from the region, many of those who head towards Europe choose Spain as their final destination, which was reflected in the Spanish population census for 2001 that enumerated 840,000 people of Latin American and Caribbean origin. Other preferred destinations for migrants from the region are Canada, other European countries, Japan, Australia and Israel.

The recognition of the need for managed migration was reflected in the growing number of intergovernmental platforms that are established to provide policy makers with an opportunity to discuss strategies to respond to the challenges migration poses in the twenty-first century to the international community.

4. MIGRATION POLICIES- GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

International Migration Policies: An overview

The following is a summary of the paper ‘International Migration Policies: An overview’.

Migration policies could be divided into seven groups, dependent on the specific aspect of migration they address: overall immigration levels, unskilled workers, family reunification, integration of non-nationals, the undocumented, regionalization of policies and policies in the wake of a post 11 September world.

With respect to immigration, the majority of the countries seemed to want to maintain their present level of immigration while recognizing a need to control and manage the inflow of people across their borders. A trend towards greater selectivity, favouring the admission of migrants with specific skills, such as qualifications in science and technology but also in education and health care, could be observed. However, while there was obviously a growing need for skilled labor, the changing age-structure and rising job-expectations by nationals are increasingly leading to labour shortages in low skilled sectors such as in agriculture, construction and domestic services. In order to feel these gaps, some countries had begun to informally tolerate undocumented migration and those who overstay their visa within their borders.

With family reunification traditionally being a major basis for immigration in a significant number of countries, particularly in Europe, a widespread debate has begun to focus on the cost of providing migrants’ dependants with basic social and health services.

The fifth category of migration policies discussed in the document was that of integration of non-nationals, which address issues such as human rights standards for migrants and their de-

pendants, guaranteeing religious freedom and acceptance of the use of foreign languages. In most countries today, migrants and non-nationals did not enjoy the same basic rights as nationals and thus were excluded from fully exercising their rights in the civil and political arena of the host-country.

Policies to control and reduce undocumented and irregular migration were currently formulated by many countries worldwide. For example since the mid-1990s, most Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries along with a number of developing countries had either introduced new laws or had enhanced the enforcement of existing laws to curb the flows of undocumented migrants and to penalize smugglers and traffickers and employers of undocumented migrants.

The seventh issue was the harmonization of immigration policies among governments. The establishment of regional and subregional processes facilitated information exchange and improved regional cooperation.

The last of the eight issues addressed border-control and immigration procedures. In the wake of the events of 11 September 2001 and the bombings in Bali, Madrid and London and their impact on migration policies, many governments had introduced more stringent requirements for granting visas and some had imposed new visa requirements for nationals of countries that in the past had consistently produced undocumented migrants.

The paper found that emigration creates both opportunities and challenges for developing countries. For most source-countries, worker remittances were an important source of foreign exchange earnings, and for some countries the predominant source of income. On the other hand, the brain drain deprived many countries of their human capital, the main driving force for sustainable development.

The paper called for a bi- and multilateral dialogue among the parties concerned to ensure that migrant flows take place in accordance with established rules, that the transfer of remittances was executed in a timely and safe manner and that the human rights of the migrants were protected at any time and place. Through its international conferences and meetings, the United Nations system offered governments and other critical stakeholders an additional platform for the development of norms and guidelines for policy formulation and migration management. The forthcoming United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 would provide a unique opportunity for the international community to establish a framework for enhanced international cooperation to address the various challenges facing the international community with respect to migration.

Discussion

The CELADE representative commented on the issue of political representation and the migrants' right to vote and brought up the example of Mexicans living in the United States, which has become there a critical issue in discussions of migration policies. He also referred to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) agreement which should facilitate the mobility and residence for people of its member countries.

The representative from the Population Division underlined the importance of rising public attention to migration, which could be explained, for example, in Europe, according to Frank Eelens from NIDI by growing numbers of migrants arriving in Europe. The fact that each fourth migrant came to Europe for family formation rather than family reunification, could explain the tighter regulations in regard to family reunification in the Netherlands.

The PAHO representative drew the attention of the participants back to the Caribbean and raised the issue of financing the foreign recruitment of nurses from the Caribbean. She indicated that an aspect of the Caribbean strategy for managed migration was how to get the receiving countries to also contribute to the education of the nurses they would finally recruit, since for the source country foreign recruitment of their professionals was a lost investment. The representative from the Population Division mentioned that one such agreement had been reached between the United Kingdom and Malawi. As a consequence, salaries of nurses were raised and further the British Government contributed to training and educating nurses in that country.

The DNICC representative raised the issue of forceful repatriation of Caribbean nationals from their host countries, an issue she considered to be of utmost importance for the international community. According to her information, an estimated 180 000 people were deported yearly worldwide, with enormous and quite often traumatic consequences for the affected individuals and their families. She suggested that some deportees were not granted full legal rights in their host country. She further highlighted the fact that for many deportees, who in their majority were restrained from re-entering the country of deportation for at least a certain period of time, the only way back was to use the ‘services’ of smugglers and traffickers. The representative from the Population Division supported her call for more attention to this matter and suggested that this matter certainly needed more research, since presently little systematic evidence, apart from anecdotic reports, was available on deportation procedures and the nature of deportees.

Current trends and issues in Caribbean migration

The following text summarizes the paper ‘Current trends and issues in Caribbean migration’.

To classify migration, various types of migration can be identified, such as the purpose of migration (be it work, education or an accompanying person), permanent or temporary migration, intra-regional or extra-regional migration and undocumented or irregular migration. It was important to note that the positive perception of migration as a personal solution often far exceeded the reality and was sometimes conditioned by deception. It was also important to recognize that the perspective of migration, from the point of view of the migrants and their families, was different from, and not necessarily in the interest of, the State and region.

With regard to destinations it was rather interesting to further analyse movements to the United States and Canada. Caribbean labor migrants contributed in absolute terms to the global total of all migrants in the United States far less than countries in other parts of the world. However, the Caribbean percentage of all immigrants to this country, including students, was considerable. Canada was the second most important destination of Caribbean migrants in the 1990s. Caribbean migrants in Canada possessed a high level of education since most persons enumerated in 1981 had 10 or more years of formal education. While out-migration from the region has continued, the 1990s had seen a large number of return migrants, especially from the United Kingdom.

Remittances accounted for substantial proportions of the GDP in some Caribbean countries. However, in the view of the author, this resource was not used as effectively as it possibly could be. With regard to intraregional movements, the recent years had shown a steady rate of increased movements to those islands with expanding economies, as was tourism in the case of most Caribbean islands. Issues of major concern with regard to irregular migration had been migrants and refugees from the wider Latin America and Caribbean region who attempt to enter a Caribbean country or the United States by boat. The boats were quite often not registered and, in many cases operated by smugglers and traffickers involved in the irregular movement of young women and girls destined for prostitution at locations within and outside the Caribbean, quite of-

ten islands and countries with a prosperous tourist industry. Trafficking in persons included the recruitment, transportation, transfer and harbouring for the purpose of exploitation by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person.

Deportees refer to those Caribbean nationals abroad who are involuntarily returned to their country of birth, following charges for offences committed in a country overseas in which they do not have citizenship status, notwithstanding the fact that they may have lived there for many years. Data for the years 1995 to 2002 indicated the predominance of the movement of deportees from the United States. The arrival of deportees in their country of birth caused a considerable strain on the national health and social services. Many deportees liked to obtain work and fit back into society, a rather difficult endeavour without the appropriate support at the destination. The paper suggested that this topic certainly needs to be examined in terms of human rights as well.

Another great challenge for Caribbean governments was the collection of data on migration. To define what constitutes a migrant was a rather difficult task, since, more and more patterns of migration have been evolving. Further, the movement of nationals generally was neither recorded nor restricted, thus neither complete datasets for stock- nor flow-data are available for the Caribbean region. Especially difficult was the collection of data on undocumented and irregular migration flows. However, in order to manage migration, governments in the region have begun to address the orderly cross-boarder flows of people and are in the process of designing and adopting various policies to this end. Selectivity was intended to attract those persons deemed to provide desirable temporary migrants but also, in some cases, ultimately citizens. The objective of such an approach had to be to optimize the opportunities of migration for socio-economic development, national and regional security and the protection of human rights. It was therefore of utmost importance in this context to reduce the vulnerability of Caribbean populations to the negative impacts of migration.

Elizabeth Thomas-Hope presented a number of critical issues which were not laid out in her paper. She highlighted the fact that quite often individual decisions in regard to cross-border movements were taken contrary to push and pull factors at home and abroad. She stressed the fact that while many migrants did move for economic reasons, there were many who were motivated by other driving forces, such as family reunion, marriage or retirement back home, even if this country did not provide the amenities the Diaspora offered.

Another issue of critical importance was the question of a Caribbean identity and a possible definition thereof. While it was a fact that Caribbean societies had been shaped by immigration of people from many parts of the world and most people in the Caribbean recognized the multicultural environment they lived in, the question arose to how much multi-culturalism would be a benefit and whether it would pose a challenge to the national identity of any Caribbean society.

In her presentation, the UWI representative emphasized the fact that due to the history of the region, the propensity to migrate in the Caribbean was so great and thus most people almost felt compelled to seek greener pastures abroad. She also stressed the fact that Caribbean societies had become rather vulnerable since changes in the demands of labor market either back home or abroad were themselves instantly impacting on migration flows to and from the region. She also emphasised the recognition of the negative impact emigration had on those who stayed behind, be it spouses or children or colleagues who had to cope with heavier workloads in strained professions, such as nursing and teaching. She also called the attention of the audience to internal mi-

gration, a phenomenon more often observed in the larger islands, where often qualified personnel tended to move to urban areas leaving rural and often poorer areas quite often in dire straits.

Agreeing on a joint definition of what constituted a migrant and assessing the scope and direction of migration flows had never been an easy task and the Caribbean was no exception to this. However, according to information available, cross-border movements of the unskilled constituted by far the majority of migrants, with students being the second and the highly skilled forming the smallest group of those who left. However, the departure of different types of migrants affected the sending country differently. The move of the unskilled was quite often welcome, since not enough work might be available and welfare expenditures could be kept low. Students quite often studied abroad to earn their academic qualification but then only a few returned. The emigration of the better educated was perceived differently, since their departure left considerable gaps in many public service institutions, such as health and education and increasingly also in the information technology (IT) sector.

Another topic the presentation touched upon was return migration. According to the presenter's experience in the case of Jamaica, the number of deportees arriving surpassed those who come back voluntarily. Trafficking of humans was increasingly growing into an area of major concern for the region. Persons moved as regular migrants and obtained a work permit issued by the receiving country. Very few countries had specific laws against smuggling and trafficking, which made the irregular movement of human cargo a low-risk highly lucrative business.

While many migrants decided to leave their home country for good, others considered coming back after having spent a number of years abroad. The author of the paper suggested that governments should provide more incentives for nationals abroad to invest in local projects and to assist those who returned with their reintegration.

The presenter further elaborated on the role of remittances for Caribbean development and the lack of specific knowledge on the origin and destination of such flows of resources. Her research has shown that quite often the amount of money remitted depended in many cases on permanent versus temporary migration as well as on the socio-economic status of the migrants. Not much is known about the scope and type of remittances of the skilled or where they go and for what they are used. Since among the skilled there were many young and single people, it could be assumed that they did not remit to the extent one would expect of groups of migrants.

In conclusion, she suggested that Caribbean governments should provide more attractive investment opportunities for those in the Diaspora as well as for returnees. Finally she suggested the establishment of a mechanism for coordination and exchange of research and knowledge on migration to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance collaboration of those involved and interested in the matter.

Discussion

In response to a question by the CSME representative on whether migrating to Canada was a better option for Jamaicans than migrating to the United States, it was stated that this was true for a certain group of migrants. Generally students were welcome in the United States and Canada and many were successful in obtaining scholarships to cover their expenses. The representative from the Population Division indicated that a number of small, private colleges in the United States seemed to be rather dependent on the presence of large numbers of foreign students, since many nationals seemed to choose larger and more prestigious colleges than foreigners with limited financial resources. Further, such institutions generally benefited from higher tuition fees charged to foreign than to domestic students. The UWI representative confirmed these observations and stated that there were similar practices in the United Kingdom. The PAHO representative alluded to the fact that such practices also seemed to be common in the Caribbean where, for

example, UWI charged higher tuition fees to foreigners than to nationals. Further, she brought to the attention of the group that presently foreign medical students were protesting at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus, a rise in their tuition fees.

Migration in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

The next summary was based on the document ‘Migration in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)’.

Thirteen CARICOM member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have committed to deepen and strengthen the regional integration process by establishing the CSME. The focus of the Community was currently on establishing the Single Market with effect of 1 January 2006 or shortly thereafter. The other major component of the CSME, the Single Economy, must be completed by 31 December 2008 based on the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The free movement of nationals from member and associate member States was one of the ultimate goals of the CSME. However, until today only the free movement of skilled labor, such as university graduates, artists, musicians, media workers and sportspersons has been implemented by almost all member States. Regarding the movement of services, the Revised Treaty includes the movement of services against remuneration other than wages. Referring to the third issue, the right of establishment, CARICOM nationals had the right to move to another member State on a more permanent basis to produce goods and services. This also includes bringing along technical, managerial and supervisory staff. The inclusion of other groups of workers into those who are allowed to move freely was discussed by the CARICOM member States in early 2005, but no final decision has yet been taken.

With regard to social security, the Treaty states that a wage earning CARICOM national must be insured in the member State where he or she was employed and is, therefore, required to contribute to the respective social security system, which then entitles him/her to the same benefits that nationals of the host country enjoy. The issue of spouses and dependants seems to be quite complicated. Although dependants of those who are allowed to move freely had the right to join the principal mover, most member States had not removed work permit restrictions for dependants.

In order to monitor labor movement within the CSME, the CARICOM Secretariat was currently discussing the establishment of a “Movement of Skills Database”.

Discussion

The representative of UWI enquired if a person seeking employment in a night club would be granted a work permit under present CSME regulations. She was informed that that type of worker would definitely not fall into the free movement category but would possibly be eligible for a work permit. However, a person willing to establish a night club, bringing with him his national employees would neither need a work permit for himself nor for his employees. The comment was made that this was the point where trafficking of humans could be covered through a legal procedure. One representative from ECLAC sought clarification on the functionality of new procedures. The CSME representative explained that the destination country would issue a skill certificate to the persons in question, whereby after six months the individual would need to prove that he or she was indeed employed in the job for such skills certificate had been requested.

The PAHO representative raised the issue of acceptance of the free movement of people by Caribbean nationals and was informed that CARICOM has been undertaking considerable ef-

forts to educate its nationals on the benefits of the foreseen regional integration. She opined that an aspect of the challenge of the CSME was how nationals were interpreting the economic implications of the full implementation of the CSME, particularly the free movement of semi- and unskilled labor. The CSME representative pointed to the growing tensions between Guyana and Barbados as a consequence of the growing reluctance of the Barbadian administration to admit Guyanese nationals.

The ECLAC Population Affairs Officer noted that within the present framework, while allowing for the free movement of a few, the situation of family and dependants had not yet been addressed in the legal framework. She felt that issues such as the status of dependants in the host country after separation from the main migrant or reaching adult age in the case of minors, had not been dealt with sufficiently. This observation was confirmed by the CSME representative.

Managed Migration, Moving the Process Forward

The presentation, “Managed Migration, Moving the Process Forward” addressed the background, current situation, and considerations for revitalizing the strategy for managing the migration of nurses from the Caribbean. The Caribbean framework was defined as a “regional strategy for retaining adequate numbers of competent nursing personnel to deliver health programmes and services to Caribbean nationals”. The strategy was based on the recognition that migration could not be stopped where principles of individual freedom are to be respected and in consequence also of the rights of individuals to choose where they wanted to work and live.

Discussion

The PAHO representative emphasised the fact that whilst there was a general deficiency of skilled workers in the health sector, the situation regarding nurses had become critical. While several factors, such as the status, roles and responsibilities of nurses at home and the aggressive recruitment by external agencies, could be drawn upon to explain the present mass exodus, the UWI representative added that overtime and the rising number of sick-days had increased the workload of those left behind. The NIDI representative informed the group that in Aruba the shortage of nurses and teachers was overcome by immigrants coming from the Netherlands who accepted significantly lower wages and less favourable working conditions than in their home country. He suggested that the prospect of life for some time on a sunny Caribbean island provided enough incentive for many nurses from the Netherlands to accept, at least temporarily, less favourable conditions at the workplace. The representative of PAHO suggested that in some countries working conditions for foreigners were different in so far as they only had to endure the hardships of working and living in a developing country for a certain period of time and always had the option of returning home, while for Aruban nationals such opportunities were not as easily accessible. She also provided information on strategies to cope with the growing shortage of nurses, such as international recruitment from other developing countries, as was the case in Barbados. However, as experience has shown, the retention of even foreign nurses was becoming increasingly a challenge since quite a few used an assignment in the Caribbean as a stepping stone to finding better jobs elsewhere. Frank Eelens of NIDI concluded that by losing their educated population, developing countries would be indirectly subsidising the developed world while losing human capital for their own development. Since the majority of the Caribbean countries did not intend to restrict the free movement of their nationals, “damage control” would continue to be a rather difficult task to accomplish. The PAHO representative acceded that this matter would need to be further negotiated between the parties concerned. The NIDI representative enquired if contracts existed to bond nurses. It was explained that such provisions would exist in many countries but their enforcement seemed to be a big challenge to the bodies concerned.

5. COUNTRY STUDIES ON MIGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Land of milk and honey? Recent Migration to Aruba

The following was a summary of the second document contributed by Frank Eelens: 'The Land of milk and Honey? Recent Migration to Aruba'.

As a consequence of the increased availability of technology to easily access information, transportation and communication and the enhanced liberalization of trade and capital markets, mankind has become much more mobile and seemingly no distance has become insurmountable and no risk too high in search for greener pastures abroad. The growing supply of migrants, which exceeds in many instances by far the national demand, has caused many countries to tighten their immigration procedures, with the negative consequence that many try to cross borders outside the law.

Aruba, a small Caribbean island with a population of 96,000, was faced with a similar situation since it has been experiencing a large influx of foreign workers over the past decades. Its attempt to become a prime tourist destination has coincided with a worldwide growing demand for exotic tourist destinations. However, the rapid development of Aruba's tourism industry has led to a rapidly growing need for service workers in hotels and restaurants, which could not be satisfied by the domestic labor market. To meet the growing needs of the domestic labor market foreign labor-force needed to be imported which resulted in the fact that according to the 2000 Population Census, one third of the total population was foreign born. The largest group of migrants originated in Colombia while the second largest group were Dutch citizens from the mainland.

Since the mid-1990s, approximately 12,700 new jobs were created and natives could only provide 10 per cent of the labor force to meet this demand, while the remaining 90 per cent of the jobs had to be taken up by foreign migrants. It is worthwhile to mention that the majority of migrants, male and female, arrived with a job offer in their hands while all other migrants sought employment upon their arrival. On a general note, it can be said that it was still easier for men and even more so for men from developed countries, to find a job in Aruba, than it was for foreign women.

The study showed that even those who reached without a firm job-commitment seemingly found it relatively easy to find employment and settle down. Within a year, the majority of all migrants found some kind of employment and some even moved on to better jobs and enhanced working conditions. However, the conditions undocumented migrants found themselves quite often were similar to those in other parts of the world, as there was extortion, exploitation and abuse. To escape their destitute situation, some migrants would go to almost any length to obtain a residence permit, including paying a fortune to arrange a convenience marriage. In spite of the hardship experienced by a few, according to the results of the study, more than one third of all migrants intended to stay on the island for good, mainly due to the considerably high quality of life and their social and family network. Only one fifth of all migrants planned to return to their country of origin while the remainder planned to move on to other destinations in the future.

Aruba, like the majority of the countries in the region, was experiencing rapid changes in their population structure resulting in longevity and ageing of its population. At present, much of Aruba's rapid ageing was being masked through the arrival of foreign workers, typically members of younger age-cohorts. However, the present inflow of migrants seemed, at least to some extent; to soften the negative impact of the demographic transition on the country through their contributions to the national social security system. However, how sustainable the positive impact was depended pretty much on the ageing of the migrants themselves and on the numbers of foreign migrants to come.

As discussed earlier, a look at marriages on the island revealed that each second Aruban national was married to a foreigner. These marriages were often viewed with a certain prejudice particularly in the case of marriages between female migrants from Latin America and Aruban men.

In summary, if the Aruban economy continued to expand, the country would need to import more foreign workers to sustain it. However, growing tensions between migrants and nationals could be foreseen and need to be addressed in order to safeguard economic growth and social development to the benefit of all residents on the island.

Discussion

The representative of UWI wondered if marriage could be viewed as an easy way to obtain residence in Aruba. The NIDI representative responded that although he was not able to provide exact data, he understood from his interviews with migrants that there were cases where marriages were arranged in order to obtain residency. However, he stressed the fact that these were exceptions and that the majority of couples engaged in a regular marriage. The fact that the majority of the migrants were between 20 and 40 years old when they entered the country enhanced their chances to find a local partner. The CSME representative commented that relationships with a national could be a further incentive for many migrants to extend their stay on the island. With reference to growing numbers of internationally operating agencies that facilitate cross-border convenience marriages, the ECLAC representative confirmed that such agencies were also active in many countries in Europe but, at the same time, to avoid malpractice, the recognition of cross-border marriage has become increasingly difficult in many countries. The UWI representative informed the meeting that such marriages were rather common between Jamaicans and Cubans. Steven Mac Andrew informed the group that in the case of Bermuda, immigration procedures for foreign dependants of nationals were extremely strict; most probably with the intention of avoiding the inflow of dependants of arranged marriages.

International migration and regional economic development: Caribbean perspectives - Necessity of an intra Caribbean partnership

The following is summary of the paper 'International migration and regional economic development: Caribbean perspectives - Necessity of an intra Caribbean partnership.

As a result of its difficult socio-economic situation, Haiti experienced one of the highest emigration rates of all Caribbean countries. It was estimated that between 1999 and 2000 more than one million nationals had left the country to settle in other Caribbean islands or in the United States. These people contributed, quite often as cheap labor, to the economic, social and cultural development as well as to the production of wealth in their host countries. At home, due to the dire socio-economic conditions the rather young population had very little hope of finding employment. As a consequence of the present political instability, the country lacked the capacity to deal with the consequences of various migration flows from, to and through its territory, such as deportation, brain drain and the trafficking of its people within and across its borders. In order to address these matters, the authorities suggested the establishment of a cooperative partnership among Caribbean governments to find an intraregional consensus and to share best practices in dealing with various aspects of migration.

Discussion

The CSME representative stated that due to its unstable political situation, Haiti was certainly an exception regarding migration. He expressed his hope that after the elections later this year the country would regain political stability and that its membership with CARICOM would be fully reinstated. One participant enquired about who would bear the cost of the reintegration of returning migrants in the region while assuming that most governments would not be in a position to cover these expenses. The CSME representative answered that from a CARICOM point of view there was no common policy to address this matter. The PAHO representative suggested that all governments should work together to find a response to these particular challenges. Discussions followed concerning the positive contributions by migrants to the economy of the host countries. This was illustrated by the case of The Bahamas, where certain jobs that Bahamian nationals were reluctant to take were primarily filled by Haitians. Furthermore, she mentioned that the variety of languages spoken in the Caribbean region along with growing migration rates would require countries to adopt a more comprehensive approach to meet the challenges associated with migration and cultural integration. She expressed concerns about the increased hostility towards migrants of different socio-cultural backgrounds on some Caribbean islands.

Families in crisis: the inhumanity of deportation

This summary is based on the paper ‘Families in crisis (inhumanity of deportation)’.

The presentation stated that in the years between 2002 and 2004 Trinidad and Tobago had received a yearly average of 340 deported nationals from the United States². Deportation was defined in the paper as the removal of a non-citizen who has entered a country, either legally or illegally and has violated a certain law in that country. A person can be removed because of entering illegally, overstaying or working illegally. With the United States migration law reformed in 1996, long-term legal permanent residents who had committed a relatively minor crime are now also at risk of being deported.

The author of the paper stressed the need to recognize the implications of deportations for migrants as well as for their families. She pointed out the fact that long-term permanent residents of the United States were affected by these laws as much as their American citizen children. Migrants are sent back to a country they might not have visited for several years or even decades. With no social or cultural ties established, in many instances, there was no support system in place. While some deportees left their families behind, others were returning with their dependants, who were often citizens of the country from which they were deported. Efforts by deportees from the United States to secure support for their United States citizen children had so far not achieved any satisfying results for the deportees and their families. The author further highlighted the possible negative impact deportation could have on an individual’s physical- and psychological well-being. The paper also pointed to a perceived violation of the basic human rights of deportees in so far as many claimed to not have been granted full access to the all formal and lawfully established deportation procedures in the country of deportation.

Discussion

At the end of her presentation, the representative of DNICC gave a vivid example of a deportation and presented her own case. The ECLAC representative thanked her for sharing her

² The paper mainly deals with deportations from the United States to Trinidad and Tobago. The views presented in the paragraph are exclusively those reflected in the presentation and do not reflect the views of the ECLAC.

personal experience with the meeting and thus reminded the group that behind each migrant was a human being with his or her individual biography. The ECLAC representative stated that deportees arriving in their country of birth without proper personal documents would often experience considerable difficulties in accessing the labor market and, thus, sometimes are seeing themselves compelled to accept informal and irregular work or employment offers. The UWI representative mentioned that in recognition of the difficulties with the absorption of deportees, some Governments such as Jamaica restricted the number of deportees they were accepting per month. The DNICC representative stated that it was difficult for her to understand how governments could agree to take back their citizens while hardly being in a position to provide support to facilitate their reintegration. The PAHO representative touched on the delicate issue of social and health risks with regard to deportations if deportees who were ill did not have a mechanism to access appropriate health care services. The ECLAC representative informed the group that the United States had already identified HIV/AIDS within migrants as a major risk for the United States health system.

6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS: RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

The ECLAC representative provided an overview of the key issues discussed over the two days. She highlighted the major determinants for migration, which were socio-political upheavals, as was the case in Central America in the 1980s, socio-economic differentials, cross-border social ties and the opening of international markets with growing demands for labor in either neighbouring countries or other parts of the world. While migration was generally linked to the socio-economic development in the sending as well as receiving country, the decision to move was also determined by deliberations at a rather individual or immediate family level, often against national or regional economic development perspectives, simply driven by the desire to return home, to live with family and/or friends or to explore new ways of living abroad. The discussion further stressed the vulnerability of Caribbean mono-culture economies, as was the case for many tourist destinations in the Caribbean, where the in-and outflow of foreigners was a direct reaction to the evolution of the labor market. Further, the decision to migrate, particularly in the case of the movement of spouses and minor dependants, was often dependent on the availability of basic social and health care services at the desired destination.

Apart from socio-economic push and pull factors and considerations at the individual or family level, the development of demographic factors also played a role. Caribbean societies had experienced considerable fertility declines over the past decades and the majority of these countries had almost completed the demographic transition from high fertility and mortality levels to low levels in both components. With increasing quality of life, life expectancy had risen and consequently Caribbean people lived longer than before. Population ageing was a topic also discussed in the region and many islands, particularly those which experienced considerable inflows of migrants, were wondering if the incoming young labor force could offset the demographic ageing of their populations. Another area of concern was the inflow of significantly higher numbers of laborers of one sex, quite often in response to the needs of the labor market in the receiving countries. Service-intensive economies generally attracted many more young women than men to work in the tourism sectors, a fact that resulted in disequilibrium on the marriage market with women remarkably outnumbering men in some countries.

The discussion then focused on the issue of transnational households and the role of remittances in the development of the Caribbean region. While it was generally acknowledged that remittances played an important role to assist families to afford education and health care for their

minors, the experts also expressed a need for more research to better understand the origin and destination of such flows and the final use of remittances in the region.

Looking at the efforts undertaken by CARICOM member States to establish the CSME, the possible implications of the final free movement of its citizens needed to be further studied. While at present efforts were undertaken to finalize the procedures for the free movement of skilled persons, many countries hesitated at this point in time to open their doors to less qualified nationals from other countries. The reason being xenophobia, fear of pressure on domestic wages due to the availability of cheap foreign labor and a perceived threat to their national identity, particularly of migrants of Hispanic or Haitian origin.

A question that could not be answered by this meeting was the issue of a definition of a Caribbean or even national identity in a multicultural environment. While some people in the Caribbean seemed to be in acceptance of the influx of other cultures, many nationals had a deep desire to maintain their national identity and to distance themselves somewhat from the influence of people from other socio-cultural backgrounds. To find a satisfactory answer to these challenges was by no means an easy task. However, more education and information to destroy certain myths and misperceptions of migrants would definitely help to address xenophobia and racism in the region.

At almost all regional and global conferences called by the United Nations over the past decade governments supported the call for the orderly movement of people while respecting and safe-guarding their basic human rights. In addition, many Caribbean governments and regional bodies had been engaged in consultations with countries in the region but also at the global level to identify ways to successfully manage the movement of those who desire to leave. One example par excellence, in this regard was the effort undertaken by CARICOM/PAHO to manage migration of Caribbean nurses or the *Code of Conduct* adopted by the Commonwealth Secretariat to curb the recruitment of nurses and other health personnel from already deprived developing countries. While trying to manage the outflow of migrants, efforts should also be undertaken to benefit from their departure by establishing brain-gain networks and find other ways to solicit the support of those who lived in the Diaspora. Another area that could be further developed was the need to convince foreign governments who finally absorbed the majority of the skilled to share the expenses to produce qualified professionals.

Apart from the brain drain in the health and education sector, other incidences of pouching were discussed, such as the case of institutions for higher education in the United States that offering attractive scholarships Caribbean students, often only to secure their own survival. It was mentioned that the education provided was not always of the highest quality and many students only accepted these scholarships as they would not had otherwise the means to access higher education.

With regard to the forthcoming CSME questions arose around the issue of the free movement of the skilled and the rights of their dependants, particularly in the case of separation of families or divorce. Would a divorced spouse or an adult dependant of a free moving professional had equal rights as the main migrant or would he/she be forced to return? Also the governments in the region had not yet agreed on a timeframe to implement the free movement of other workers that were less qualified. Finally, the group expressed a consensus that more needed to be known on the impact of the free movement within the CSME member countries on the socio-economic development of the region.

While still a lot of people left the region, either temporarily or for good, many migrants were returning. This group could be divided in two groups, one that encompassed those who returned voluntarily, such as retirees or the younger generation who saw business opportunities in some of the prospering islands and a second group that included all those who were deported,

mainly from the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. Returning either voluntarily or involuntarily to a country where one has not lived for many years was a challenge for the receiving societies since very few governments provided assistance to help with their reintegration. In the case of deportations the situation became rather difficult since many persons sent back had neither social nor cultural or economical ties with the country they were sent to. Further, along with stigmatization and being labelled as criminals, deportees often faced insurmountable difficulties to find their place in society.

With regard to respecting human rights of all migrants, the smuggling and trafficking of humans from, to and through Caribbean islands and countries had become an area of major concern to governments and other critical stakeholders in the subregion. While some people were smuggled and trafficked as undocumented migrants others were moved within the legal framework, being granted, for example, a work-permit for female 'service' providers or as dependants of an entrepreneur in the entertainment industry.

The final discussion elaborated on the way forward for the Caribbean on the issue of migration. The meeting echoed the earlier stated need for more accurate and timely data on various types of migratory movements within but also to and from countries outside the Caribbean region. It further stressed the fact that remittances played a critical role in the development of the Caribbean and more detailed information on the remittent but also on the scope and use of monetary and non-monetary resource flows would be needed to guide countries in their efforts to make better use of such resources. Finally, it was agreed that it would be desirable to establish a clearing house to collect, archive and share available data, research and documentation on migration in the region to enhance collaboration among various institutions, international agencies, academia and governments and to avoid duplication of efforts undertaken.

The PAHO representative sought clarification concerning the forthcoming meeting on migration to be held in Mexico and the role governments were expected to play. The ECLAC/CELADE representative explained that this meeting was hosted by the Mexican Government, supported by other United Nations agencies, such as ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and thus was not to be considered an official ECLAC meeting.

The PAHO representative took the floor to thank, on behalf of all participants, ECLAC for convening this meeting. On behalf of the Director, Esteban Pérez formally closed the workshop, expressing ECLAC's pleasure at having hosted the meeting. In closing the meeting, Karoline Schmid thanked the group for their participation and their personal commitment to the fruitful and rich discussions over the previous two days.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NGOs and civil society

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Annex 2

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 14 September 2005

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| 8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. | | Registration |
| 9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. | <u>Item 1:</u> | <p><i>Opening Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by the Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
<i>Esteban Pérez, ECLAC</i> • Migration in the Caribbean: Overview of data, policies and programs
<i>Karoline Schmid, ECLAC</i> |
| 9.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. | <u>Item 2:</u> | <p><i>Migration – what do we know? Empirical findings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population estimates and projects: New methodological approaches to integrate migration
<i>Frank Eelens, N.I.D.I</i> • ECLAC/CELADE: Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, facts and findings
<i>Jorge Martinez, ECLAC-CELADE</i> • Discussion |
| 11.15 a.m. – 11.45 a.m. | | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. | <u>Item 3:</u> | <p><i>Migration policies – global and regional perspectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration policies at the global level and information on GA high-level dialogue on migration and development
<i>Barry Mirkin, United Nations Population Division</i> • Recent Trends and Issues in Caribbean Migration
<i>Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, UWI, Jamaica</i> • Discussion |
| 12.45 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. | | <i>Lunch</i> |

2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Item 3 (cont'd):

- Migration within CARICOM with reference to the CSME and its implications for CARICOM member States
Steven Mc Andrew, CARICOM-RNM
- Managed migration in the Caribbean
Veta Brown, PAHO-CPC
- Discussion

Thursday 15 September 2005

9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Item 4:

Country studies on migration in the Caribbean

Aruba

- “Double or Quits”, Study on Migrants in Aruba.
Frank Eelens

Haiti

- International migration and regional economic development: Caribbean perspectives - Necessity of an intra Caribbean partnership
Carline Duval Joseph

Trinidad and Tobago

- Deportation to the Caribbean
Marlene Jaggernaut
- Discussion

11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Item 5:

Summary and Recommendation: Rapporteur's Report and Discussion

- Identify major areas of concern and discuss possible strategies and recommendations

- Caribbean input into GA high-level dialogue on migration and development
- Level and role of remittances for Caribbean development

1:00 p.m.

Closure