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CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE ICPD

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The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat has been engaged in a number of activities as part of its mandate to assist the governments in the subregion in the monitoring and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In that regard, the office undertook the following:

1. First follow-up meeting to the ICPD

The Caribbean Population and Development meeting follow-up to ICPD was held in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas 3-5 May 1995. This meeting was convened by ECLAC/CDCC in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and hosted by the Government of the Bahamas. The meeting, with more than 70 participants, served as the first subregional gathering following the ICPD in Cairo, September 1994. It brought together a wide cross-section of Government officials from 18 countries, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regional institutions and international agencies. The output of that meeting was the Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/CAR/G.446 also referred to as the Bahamas Consensus) which identified six areas as priority for the Caribbean region: migration; interrelations between population and sustainable development; population policy; adolescent fertility; reproductive health and family planning; advocacy (information, education and communication) programmes.

2. Advocacy as an area of focus

In January 1996 the Caribbean Action on Population and Development (CAPD) newsletter was launched by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat with the support of UNFPA. The newsletter functions as a mechanism to promote continuity in ICPD follow-up action and the sharing of knowledge and experiences related to ICPD implementation in the subregion. Seven issues have been published and widely distributed to governmental and non-governmental agencies, academic institutions and other regional organizations. Publication is ongoing.

3. Migration as an area of focus

A meeting of the working group to formulate the migration component of the Caribbean Plan of Action was held in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, 13 – 18 September

1995 convened by ECLAC/CDCC and funded by UNFPA. The meeting agreed that work should be undertaken in a number of areas: emigration and its future patterns; the impact of immigration on small island countries and coastal States; the role of remittances and their contribution to development; and new trends in return migration and the implications for development.

Of those suggested areas, studies have been completed in the following areas:

(a) A Study of Return Migration to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Territories and the British Virgin Islands in the Closing Years of the Twentieth Century: Implications for Social Policy. LC/CAR/G.550, 1 December 1998;

(b) The Impact of Immigration on Caribbean Microstates: Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Saint Maarten, United States Virgin Islands. LC/CAR/G.540, 31 March 1998; and

(c) The Contribution of Remittances to Social and Economic Development in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/G.543, 3 August 1998.

4. Provisional of technical assistance in the preparations for the ICPD+5 Review

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat visited a selected number of countries in the subregion between September and October 1998 and met with key governmental and non-governmental personnel in the ICPD+5 Review process.

Technical personnel were updated on the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process and assisted in the completion of the questionnaire, which formed part of the international review process, and in the compilation of national reports.

5. Consensus building and preparation for the regional level review and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGAS)

A. The subregional level

A subregional meeting on population and development (ICPD+5) review was held from 17-19 November 1998, at the Normandie Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago. This subregional meeting was convened by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, in collaboration with CARICOM and UNFPA.

This meeting was in response to a mandate from the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, held during the twenty-seventh session of ECLAC (Oranjestad, Aruba, 11-16 May 1998), whereby Caribbean governments participating at the meeting mandated the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the

Caribbean to convene a meeting of member governments and NGOs on population and development.

Forty-four participants from 15 CDCC member and associate member countries were present. There was also participation from several international organizations, such as, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and United Nations Population Fund. Also present at the meeting were representatives from 11 NGOs. The output of the meeting was the Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD+5). The subregional review identified five areas for future action:

- (a) Capacity building in the social sector, specifically in the area of socio-demographic data collection, and use for policy formulation;
- (b) Establishment of national focal points for monitoring of implementation of ICPD PoA;
- (c) Development of policies on migration;
- (d) Adolescent reproductive health and rights; and
- (e) Integration of population and development into the planning processes.

B. The regional level

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided technical assistance to Caribbean governments in attendance at the Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, 14-15 December 1998, Santiago, Chile.

Twenty countries were in attendance at the meeting, of those, six were from the Caribbean. CARICOM was also represented, and of the six NGOs present, four were from the Caribbean subregion.

The substantive work of the meeting revolved around the draft report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD+5 PoA in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the resolution arising from the meeting.

It was the view of the Caribbean governments present that the regional report in fact, presented information and examples from the Caribbean subregional report, thus allowing for more meaningful participation of the Caribbean governments around the substantive issues. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was commended for making the Caribbean subregional report available to the CELADE office in a timely manner which allowed for the inclusion of Caribbean information in the final document.

C. The global level

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided substantive servicing to its member countries in attendance at the final PrepCom for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the programme of action of the ICPD+5 and for the UNGASS, 30 June to 2 July 1999.

A caucus of Caribbean delegates was held on the morning of 23 June 1999, one with mission personal prior to the G77 meeting and the other in the afternoon with persons from capitals. Both meetings were useful and helped bring Caribbean delegates up-to-date with the negotiating process.

Following these meetings, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened a caucus with Caribbean delegates, each morning of the PrepCom, prior to the G77 meeting or the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, depending upon which one of the two meetings began first. Participants used the opportunity to brief their colleagues on the state of negotiations in the various contact groups, the G77 and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole which they were attending. The best use could thus be made of the available Caribbean expertise.

A healthy working relationship was maintained with the Caribbean NGO community which was in attendance at the meeting, some of whom were members of their country delegation and others, who were in attendance as observers. This was achieved by inviting their participation at the Caribbean caucus sessions.

6. **Follow-up to the ICPD+5 Review and Appraisal**

The first meeting of the ad hoc expert group on population and development for the Caribbean subregion was held 24-25 January, 2000 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, at the office of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) to propose a subregional approach toward fulfillment of the ICPD Programme of Action; and (2) to advise and assist governments in their participation in the Third Sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development which will meet during the Twenty-eighth Session of ECLAC in April, 2000 in Santiago, Chile.

The expert participants included:

Mr. Lauchland Lake, Deputy Census Officer/Senior Statistician, Census & Surveys Section, Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance, Antigua and Barbuda; Ms. Kelsie Dorsett, Deputy Director, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development, Nassau, Bahamas; Mr. Easton Williams, Head, Population Unit, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica; and Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe, Member of the Population Council of Trinidad and Tobago and President Family Planning Association, Trinidad

and Tobago. Ms. Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC acted as secretary to the meeting.

The output of that meeting is a document entitled "Draft Report on the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on ICPD+5 Process for the Caribbean Subregion", 24-25 January 2000. The report suggested four areas for priority action: (1) Youth/Adolescent reproductive health and rights; (2) The Aged- with specific reference to the economic provisions for welfare; (3) Migration- with specific reference to harmonization of migration laws and development of policies on deportees; and (4) Training with specific reference to training in analysis of socio demographic data through, software such as REDATAM, SAS, SPSS and GIS.

The meeting called for the establishment of a subregional Ad hoc expert group on population and development to meet on an annual basis with responsibility for the monitoring of the implementation of the ICPD+5 PoA and the development of indicators for the success of same.