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for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda
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**REPORT OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS FOR THE CARIBBEAN WITHIN THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

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A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Caribbean subregion is at risk of falling behind in the global quest for development as human development gains are being eroded. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) therefore provide a unique opportunity to address social, economic, and environmental gaps in the subregion. Proper planning, however, is critical.
2. Caribbean countries need to take ownership of the SDGs. This should be done by establishing regional priorities for the Caribbean among the SDGs while ensuring that the goals are tailored to specific country development strategies.
3. The SDG process will only be successful if Member States promote a participatory approach that includes stakeholders comprising civil society, the private sector, and the local citizen. Institutions and governance structures also need to be strengthened given the subregion's limited institutional capacity and its inability to include multiple stakeholders in the sustainable development process.
4. Regional institutions such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) can play an important role in providing technical assistance for proposals for financing, disaster assessments, and data collection and analysis as the subregion embarks on the implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. To this end, the significant influence and power of regional institutions should be harnessed and coordinated with national mechanisms so that they support the regional process.
5. A regional approach to data collection and sharing is important for the success of the SDG framework. Member States will need to carefully consider the type of data products that the national statistical offices will need to monitor the SDGs such as those data sets related to the environment and integration of vulnerability indices.
6. In view of the significant decline in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to Caribbean states due to their middle income status, and the likelihood that future assistance will not be increased, countries will have to find alternative and innovative ways to mobilize resources. The contribution of domestic finance to development is a critical stimulus for leveraging additional international resources. The Financing for Development (FfD) forum offers an important opportunity to engage development partners on the need to scale up financing for targeted areas, including disaster risk mitigation and debt relief.
7. Non-traditional sources of financing, including South-South assistance and municipal bonds should also be explored and the Caribbean should position itself to be able to access them.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the meeting

8. The symposium on sustainable development goals for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda was held from 24 to 25 June 2015 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministries and senior policymakers in the fields of planning and development, social affairs, and the environment from Caribbean Member States and

associate members of ECLAC. Officials of the United Nations system, representatives of regional civil society organizations, academia, regional development institutions, and international development partners were also in attendance.

3. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Panel 1: Review and assessment of the Caribbean experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals
3. Panel 2: Implementing the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean: identification of priorities and critical issues
4. Panel 3: Financing the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean
5. Panel 4: Enhancing institutional infrastructure and governance for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development in the Caribbean
6. Plenary session to consider the way forward for the post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean
7. Closing ceremony

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of meeting

10. Welcome remarks were made by the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. She stated that the timing of the symposium was strategic as it was intended to help the Caribbean subregion prepare and position itself for the upcoming international negotiations on the SDGs and FfD forums. The Director expressed gratitude to the CDB for co-sponsoring the initiative and indicated that she looked forward to continued collaboration with the Bank to support the region's implementation of the sustainable development goals. She emphasized that the SDGs have been built on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and that countries should use the lessons learnt from the MDG experience. In this regard, the importance of disaggregated data and appropriate indicators to ensure accurate, periodic measurement of national and regional progress was underscored. She also informed the participants that the objectives of the symposium were to assess which SDGs best suited the needs of the Caribbean and how best to use the SDG framework to ensure sustainable development in the region. An additional objective, she also noted, was to determine how to cohesively establish a mechanism to guide and support SDG implementation in the Caribbean.

11. Remarks were also given by the Vice-President of Operations of the CDB, who reflected on the mixed progress in the Caribbean's achievement of the MDGs. She noted that the subregion had excelled in some areas like education and the promotion of gender equality, but that there was much more work to be done in areas like poverty reduction and the development of global partnerships.

12. The Vice-President acknowledged the subregion's shortcomings in poverty assessments and reaffirmed the need for a multi-dimensional approach to poverty measurements that would look beyond income. She also underscored the need for sex disaggregated data to foster greater gender equity in policymaking. She recommended that the Caribbean Member States explore opportunities such as public-

private partnerships and other sources of financing for development for small island developing States (SIDS).

13. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, in his opening statement, noted the mixed progress towards achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean. He remarked that the subregion was still relatively advanced compared to other developing countries despite enduring challenges to development such as vulnerability to natural hazards exacerbated by climate change, persistently low economic growth, increasing indebtedness, unemployment, and ongoing challenges in accessing international development funds. The Minister suggested that the Caribbean's involvement in the SDG process offered an opportunity to graft the subregion's development agenda onto the global platform and to pursue international financing to support the transformation of the subregion's development experience. The Minister drew attention to the need to enhance the subregion's preparedness to meet the new challenges ahead and to strengthen the commitment to build the institutional capacity needed to advance implementation of the SDGs. He concluded by expressing his hopes that commitment to implement this important new development platform in the Caribbean subregion would be further strengthened.

2. Review and assessment of the Caribbean experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

14. The meeting's first panel discussion provided a comprehensive assessment of the Caribbean subregion's experience in attempting to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), highlighted progress made, and identified existing challenges. It also set the stage for the discussion of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and included preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development. Four panellists presented their perspectives on national and regional experiences regarding the implementation of the MDGs.

15. The former Executive Coordinator of Rio+20 and high-level consultant for the post-2015 development agenda set the stage for the meeting's review of MDG implementation with her presentation on "The Caribbean experience with implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the way forward within the context of the post-2015 development agenda". She gave an overview of the Caribbean subregion's progress toward the MDGs. She noted that the subregion had made significant progress in achieving universal primary and secondary education. However it was significant to note that the trend toward higher female enrolment in secondary and tertiary institutions and their higher educational attainment had not translated into higher levels of female employment. The data showed a disproportionate percentage of women affected by poverty and unemployment. Women also occupied few leadership positions in the subregion. Although the Caribbean saw gains in environmental sustainability, there were still major challenges in energy, water stress and scarcity, climate change impacts, and waste disposal and management. Furthermore, Caribbean countries had high debt to GDP ratios and did not record adequate successes in developing partnerships for development.

16. She recommended that the subregion work to strengthen the appropriate enabling environment (legal, governance, policy, fiscal, and regulatory) by enhancing strategic partnerships. The subregion should also develop its own sustainability index with appropriate social, economic, and environmental markers. Finally, she reiterated the need for the Caribbean development agenda to be more people-centred.

17. The presentation of the former Executive Coordinator was then followed by reflections on the MDG implementation at the national level on the part of three Caribbean countries: Bermuda, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

18. The Acting Director of the Sustainable Development Department Bermuda presented on “The Bermuda experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals”. She highlighted that, in the case of her country, although females surpassed males in secondary education attainment yet females typically had lower unemployment rates, received less in pension benefits and were poorly represented in leadership positions. She reported that Bermuda had made progress in achieving some of the other MDGs including securing zero maternal mortality, offering almost universal health coverage, improving waste management, lowering energy consumption, and providing more developed infrastructure. She noted that Bermuda had also focused on reducing debt and the implementation of programmes to take care of their ageing population. Some areas she identified that still required more attention were consumer confidence, tourism, transportation, and recycling.

19. She suggested that countries needed to be deliberate about securing success, and should take actions that were applicable, relevant, and country-specific. She encouraged the allocation of the resources necessary to achieve national progress. She identified sound principles as an important factor for success, along with commitment from leaders, community engagement, relevant and applicable policies and actions, availability of resources, effective assessments, and maximised synergies.

20. The Director of the Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica, presented on “The Jamaica experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals”. He recalled that the MDGs were formulated by experts and adopted by governments in an attempt to reach a sustainable development agenda that would build on and surpass previous global and United Nations development efforts. Noting that despite the fact that the MDGs did not integrate all the dimensions of sustainable development into a comprehensive and holistic framework, he still considered the approach the most comprehensive at the time. In light of this, he emphasized the importance of ownership and establishment of relevant national institutional structures and instruments to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of development targets. This approach, he assessed, would have helped to avoid some of the challenges that Jamaica encountered in implementing the MDGs. He cited, for example, the weakness in his country’s initial approach to coordinating MDG reporting wherein no specific agency was assigned overarching responsibility for MDG monitoring and implementation for several years following their adoption.

21. The Director suggested that in order for the post-2015 development agenda to be relevant and avoid major programmatic and monitoring challenges, there must be a core set of universally agreed goals and targets with which the countries can identify at the regional and national levels with country and region specific indicators. Effective monitoring and evaluation are also important, and should be pursued through a system of data collection, processing, and dissemination that is relevant, reliable, timely and valid. He revealed that Jamaica had been relatively successful in providing universal primary education and in eradicating hunger. However, the country lagged behind in gender equality and environmental sustainability, and was far behind in child and maternal mortality.

22. The Senior Planning Officer, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago presented on “The Trinidad and Tobago experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals”. She disclosed that her government expected that approximately 70 per cent of the MDG targets would be achieved by 2015. She highlighted that Trinidad and Tobago had been successful in reducing poverty and hunger, in achieving universal primary education, and in approaching gender equality. However, more significant advances were needed in the areas of health and environmental sustainability. She suggested that better MDG progress might have been achieved in Trinidad and Tobago if some things had been done differently. For example, MDG projects should have been given higher priority to ensure the allocation of more resources to implement and monitor them. Representatives from statutory bodies and civil society should also have been included in the MDG projects.

23. In moving forward with the SDGs she recommended the establishment of a coordinating unit that would communicate, promote, and monitor all things related to the post-2015 development agenda. Memoranda of understanding should be established with the relevant agencies to facilitate the collection of data. She also suggested that Cabinet approval should be obtained for projects and programmes relevant to the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that they are given priority for resources. Finally, she expressed the view that goals, targets and indicators should be customized to match the country and its level of development.

Discussion

Engagement with stakeholders

24. In the discussion that ensued, delegates underscored the need for more extensive and effective engagement with stakeholders including non governmental actors, civil society, the youth, and the private sector in the implementation and monitoring of the development agenda.

National priorities

25. Representatives also suggested that the SDGs should be integrated into national priorities and policies to ensure that they are adequately funded. SDGs also need to be approached and implemented in a way that is relevant to the individual countries while still meeting international targets. In this regard it was stressed that Caribbean countries should make sure that their obligations for national and regional reporting are not side-lined in favour of meeting reporting requirements for multilateral goals and agreements.

Building capacity in data collection

26. Delegates underscored the importance of Member States adopting and implementing a consistent and relevant data collection policy. In this regard it was recommended that countries continue to build capacity in the areas of harmonising data collection and the development of performance indicators.

3. Implementing the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean: Identification of priorities and critical issues

27. Panel 2 sought to identify and prioritize a set of key sustainable development goals to address the social, economic and environmental development needs of the Caribbean. The presentations by the four panellists and subsequent discussions resulted in the identification of a number of critical issues that the region must confront in order to extend the Caribbean's development aspirations over the next 15 years.

28. The ECLAC Consultant and former Deputy Secretary-General for Economic Affairs and Development of the Commonwealth Secretariat made a substantive presentation of the document prepared to underpin the meeting's consideration of SDG priorities for the Caribbean. He highlighted the importance of the SDGs for the subregion particularly because of the Caribbean's increasing vulnerability in all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). He noted that while the SDGs were not new goals, they were unique and, importantly, had the ability to be better adapted than previous development goals, to the needs of the Caribbean.

29. He indicated that in general terms CARICOM countries had recorded limited economic growth over the past forty years and at present showed the lowest regional growth in the world. Caribbean debt was extremely high with persistent deficits over time and the region experienced modest and volatile inflows of foreign direct investment. This was especially true for the service-based economies; the more diversified producer economies like Trinidad and Tobago had performed better, particularly during turbulent economic times.

30. He suggested that it was important for Caribbean countries to take political ownership of the SDGs and to transform them into national level plans. Furthermore, in order to realise greater success, the subregion would need to focus more on data and ensure that it is relevant, timely, and disaggregated, for use in monitoring the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. Countries should also invest in promoting widespread public awareness and citizen buy-in to assure a participatory approach in SDG implementation.

31. The former Chair of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre delivered a presentation on “Integrating the Samoa Pathway in the post-2015 development agenda for Caribbean small-island developing States”. He suggested that a strategy for sustainable development should be multi-disciplinary and integrative in its approach. He also highlighted some of the prerequisites essential for successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the region, including the following: a clear participatory governance framework; assessment of the cost of implementation; assessment of the knowledge base; stakeholder involvement; transparency and accountability; and alignment and synchronization of objectives, targets, and indicators with national development plans.

32. In moving forward, the Caribbean needed to address what the panellist referred to as the ‘Dirty Dozen Caribbean issues’. These included institutional capacity, data and information, climate change and vulnerability, access to financial resources, economic challenges (debt, fiscal and trade matters), inadequate human resources, energy security, poverty, education, health, limited social protection systems, and communication and information technology.

33. He stressed that sustainable development could only be achieved through equitable means with a foundation based on economic progress, an enabling environment, and participatory governance. He noted that when goals are not all-inclusive, as was the case with the MDGs, inequality results, as different sectors may be ‘left behind.’

34. The independent consultant in the area of social development discussed “The sustainable development goals as a platform for advancing social development in the Caribbean”. She stated that the Caribbean countries shared characteristics which she described as critical to planning for the post-2015 agenda. These include moderate to high rank in terms of the human development indices; open economies that are vulnerable to shocks; weak growth in GDP; high debt to GDP ratio; environmental vulnerability related to climate change and natural disasters; ageing populations; health issues including HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, and non-communicable diseases; food and nutrition issues; high energy costs; limited fiscal space and the related fragmented delivery of social services; disparity between access and attainment; educational issues; high unemployment rates particularly among the youth; and poverty. There are also prevalent multiple overlapping vulnerabilities that include gender, age, disability, and being a member of indigenous and rural communities that are sometimes overlooked and need to be addressed in order to successfully achieve the SDGs.

35. She described the SDGs as an inclusive approach to development that was well suited to the Caribbean context in its potential to address social issues and provide for a better quality of life. As the subregion sought to prioritize and implement the SDGs, the more vulnerable groups needed to be targeted. There should be better coverage and adequacy in social programmes, a regional framework of action and financing, institutional strengthening, participatory bottom-up community driven development, capacity building, and stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of policies. The Caribbean subregion needed to standardize its monitoring and evaluation tools by harmonizing data and including qualitative indicators of progress with already existing quantitative indicators. The region also needed to focus more on issues of equality, access to critical development services, equity, justice, and fairness especially as it pertains to the needs of specific at-risk and vulnerable groups.

36. The Representative of the UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean addressed “Human rights and gender equality issues in the sustainable development goals: Priorities for the Caribbean”. She highlighted that the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality had focused on areas where strategies needed to be further developed to advance gender equality in the Caribbean subregion. She noted that despite positive steps toward gender equality, there was still work to be done in reducing gender-based violence; in providing better and more equal and equitable access to education, health, and food and nutrition; and in promoting more women in economic and leadership roles.

37. She underscored that the essence of the SDGs is that they are indivisible and interdependent and that they attempt to ensure that no one is left behind. She suggested, therefore, that attention should be paid to the fact that different sectors of the society will be impacted differently by the SDGs, thus priorities must be selected based on the ‘no one left behind’ principle. Progress toward gender equality would require commitment to raise unprecedented levels of financing to implement gender equality objectives of the post-2015 development agenda. This will only be done once there is renewed political commitment and increased accountability at the national, regional, and global levels.

Discussion

Gender equality

38. In the discussion that followed, delegates agreed that poverty and the elimination of poverty cannot be discussed without taking into consideration gender inequality, given that women experience the effects of poverty differently than men do. Moreover, over 50 per cent of poor households in the Caribbean subregion are headed by women, and these households are usually larger than the poor male-headed households.

39. It was suggested that national legal and institutional frameworks need to be revised to enable more women to acquire and own land. Representatives noted the high proportion of rural women in the subregion who are currently not land owners.

40. Representatives also noted that gender equality in the education sector is a complex issue in the Caribbean because educational attainment does not directly translate into equal opportunities in the job market. While girls achieve more educational qualifications than boys, employment of men remains consistently higher than women. In some cases, women need superior qualification to qualify for the same job positions.

Debt

41. Delegations expressed wide concern at the heavy indebtedness of the subregion. Most Caribbean countries have exceeded the sustainable debt to GDP ratio of 60 per cent. While factors such as hurricane frequency and population size cannot be altered, debt can. In this regard, it was recommended that the subregion establish a strategy to make the case for the continuing need for financial assistance for the Caribbean, notwithstanding the middle income classification of most countries of the subregion.

Data, accountability and monitoring

42. The importance of data to ensure proper monitoring and accountability of goals in the development framework could not be overstated. Representatives noted that data for some indicators did not exist and some of the data that did exist were not useful for monitoring goals and targets. The importance of collecting the correct type of data whether qualitative or quantitative to properly monitor and assess goal progress was universally agreed. It was also noted that data served as an effective tool for advocacy. The meeting therefore strongly recommended that concerted attention be given to addressing the general lack of data and in particular the lack of data disaggregated by sex.

Institutions

43. There was consensus that Caribbean institutions needed to be strengthened. Institutional capacity and institutional stability were noted as separate and equally important requirements for sustainable development in the Caribbean. Some participants considered that the restructuring of ministries each time a new government was formed presented challenges for institutional stability particularly when priorities changed with the governments. Others contested that institutional stability was not nearly as imperative as the constancy of priorities, programmes, and institutional memory. They suggested that a solution would be for the entire parliament to be engaged in such development discussions in a bipartisan way to ensure the continuity of priorities and programmes from one government administration to the next.

44. Delegates also underscored the need to significantly improve the capacity of Member States to fully absorb and implement the technical assistance made available to them from donor institutions at the regional and international levels. Countries should also work collaboratively to ensure that the subregion's shared goals are met and to design a regional framework to monitor and support the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean.

Youth

45. The meeting acknowledged that youth comprise over 60 per cent of the subregion's population and thus simultaneously will be both the beneficiaries and benefactors of the post-2015 development agenda. It was therefore agreed that the youth should actively be engaged in the SDG implementation process. To this end, it was suggested that the subregion could embark on an effort to create and disseminate child and youth friendly publications. In addition, priority should be given to institutional strengthening for youth development especially with a view to addressing the high rates of youth unemployment.

Vulnerable groups

46. It was agreed that social well-being is the driver of growth; the post-2015 development agenda should therefore focus on transforming lives not economies. Delegates reflected that there was need to address human development in the Caribbean, and that the subregion's SDG priorities should target the most vulnerable groups.

47. The meeting also agreed that the issue of ageing should have a higher place of prominence in long-term development and planning since the Caribbean population is rapidly ageing. Moreover, the ageing process is being aggravated by the emigration of Caribbean youth, seeking education and employment opportunities in the countries of the North.

Political commitment

48. The meeting acknowledged that the expressed commitment to a sustainable development agenda at the international level will need to be girded by political will at the national level if it is to receive requisite attention amidst competing priorities. Delegations reaffirmed that commitment from all governments is required if the Caribbean subregion is to successfully pursue long-term sustainable development goals.

Education and innovation

49. Representatives generally agreed that the Caribbean, to succeed, will need to build strong knowledge intensive societies with a productive and highly skilled workforce, particularly in the areas of science, technology, and innovation. Concern was expressed that currently, only 7 per cent of University of the West Indies graduates are from the information technology sector. It was acknowledged that this sector could assist in moving the region forward by facilitating competitiveness, access to social media, and innovative ideas. The meeting agreed that policy measures for the retention of skills in the region should be urgently implemented.

4. Financing the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean

50. The third panel focussed attention on financing the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean within the framework of sustainable development in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDs). The four presentations highlighted the current global and regional financial and economic trends, the response of Governments of the region to the prevailing situation – post-crisis, and the likely challenges that will be faced in the implementation of the SDGs.

51. The independent consultant, in his presentation entitled “Financing for sustainable development in the Caribbean: the role of domestic finance”, stated that the ability to adequately finance a post-2015 development framework depended on global development cooperation that would attract aid from diverse sources. Within a post-2015 development framework he asserted that there can be no ‘right’ to ODA or concessional climate finance unless a country is also mobilizing domestic resources within its means. He suggested that the Caribbean subregion would need to upgrade its capacity for domestic resource mobilization in order to strengthen its means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

52. He noted that in the Caribbean subregion, challenges to increased domestic revenue mobilization are characterized by high levels of capital flight and limited capacity to collect revenue from multinationals, compounded by inefficient public expenditure and investment. He proposed that the subregion focus on strengthening expenditure and investment management, reforming subsidy programmes, and improving public procurement. In this regard, countries should make every effort to provide publicly accessible information on budgeting processes, expenditure management, and other government functions. Countries should also harness sustainable streams of natural resource revenues and direct them towards poverty-reducing and growth-enhancing investment. He also encouraged more in-depth exploration of the roles which might be played by institutions such as credit unions and national development banks in mobilizing public and private resources and in financing investment in sustainable development.

53. The Distinguished Fellow, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago gave a presentation on “Innovative financing for the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean.” He noted that beyond the fact that the Caribbean subregion currently attracts limited ODA from traditional donors, over some time there has also been a loss of trade preferences and increased tourism competition.

54. He predicted that achieving the SDGs will require a significant increase in financing from traditional as well as new and innovative sources. While traditional financing focused mainly on commercial bank financing, domestic savings, remittances, and FDI; innovative financing instruments will reveal new ways of public/private sector cooperation and of attracting new investors. The presenter defined innovative sources of finance as instruments that address market failure as well as the re-allocation of risks from investors to institutions which can better bear them. Some of the most commonly utilized innovative instruments are credit enhancements, swaps, green and thematic bonds. There are also less common instruments such as social impact bonds, the carbon market, results-based financing, performance-based contracts, and incentives for voluntary contributions to finance specified goals.

55. He suggested that consideration be given to a multilateral debt relief for climate swap. This idea, he indicated, was the essence of a Commonwealth Secretariat proposal to facilitate small states’ efforts to unlock pledged climate finance funds. This strategy, he suggested, could provide significant debt relief. He also suggested that there should be fiscal reform to provide headroom for public investments including a revision of tax incentives and reviewing subsidies by introducing better targeting. His final proposal was that international organizations should help leverage funds for the cancellation of multilateral and bilateral debt.

56. The Chief of the Technical Cooperation Division, Caribbean Development Bank in his presentation “Financing for sustainable development in the Caribbean: the role of donor agencies”, recalled that the Caribbean subregion has always faced challenges in gathering critical data for the monitoring and measurement of development variables. He also noted that Caribbean governments often lacked the capacity to effectively assimilate contributions from donor agencies. He suggested that the Caribbean subregion’s strategies to mobilize further funding to finance the SDGs should therefore include intensified institutional strengthening; utilization of new technologies; and partnerships with civil society and other development institutions such as the CDB, CARICOM, and ECLAC. He offered the CDB as a partner that could play a catalytic role in strengthening partnerships and provide mechanisms for performance measurement, through the collection and analysis of social and economic statistics.

57. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations, Co-chair of the Financing for Development process, made a presentation on “Financing sustainable development in the Caribbean through partnerships: engaging the international community”. He stated that partnerships have evolved from what was purely a donor-recipient relationship to a global economic cooperation for development with mutual benefit, interdependence, and shared responsibility.

58. He explained that the draft Addis Ababa Accord envisages a broad framework for financing post-2015 development. This includes a number of policy actions, notably in such areas as international resource mobilization, international business and finance, international cooperation, debt sustainability, systemic issues, the role of science in capacity building, and monitoring follow-up and review. He signalled that the subregion will need to consider how it will best position itself to benefit from this agreement on financing for development.

Discussion

Investments

59. In the ensuing discussion, some representatives acknowledged that while investment in Caribbean SIDS was vital, indeed welcomed, there are observed continuing challenges in critical sectors such as in agriculture in rural communities. It was noted, for example, that often in these communities the lack of formal titles or other proof of land ownership has made investment difficult.

SDG process

60. The meeting also considered that municipal governments should be integrated into the SDG process. This would promote decentralisation in decision-making and foster a more participatory approach to SDG implementation, so that the population can more easily participate in policy and in decisions that impact their development.

Debt relief

61. Member States expressed concern at the high levels of indebtedness in the subregion. It was underscored that for the SDGs to be effectively implemented there would need to be support for financing development. Some delegates called for more consideration to be given to the creation of a programme similar to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative for highly indebted countries. Most Caribbean SIDS are ineligible for HIPC because of their middle income status; only Haiti and Guyana from the Caribbean subregion qualify for this special assistance. Delegations expressed strong views that the vulnerability of Caribbean states deserved special consideration, in light of the unsustainable debt burden which many continue to shoulder.

Funding opportunities

62. It was suggested that the proposal to consider the development of a debt swap for climate change adaptation mechanism be given active consideration. It was noted that the Green Climate Fund should have US\$ 100 billion a year for financing climate change, mitigation, and adaptation initiatives. The UNDAF and the CARICOM regional fund also offered opportunities for regional funding.

63. Delegates agreed that there was need for Member States to give more attention to capacity building to better manage donor funds.

5. Enhancing institutional infrastructure and governance for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development in the Caribbean

64. Panel 4 continued the discussion on the identification of strategies regarding the implementation of the SDGs within the context of the post-2015 agenda. The three panellists in this session focused on the data needs and institutional capacity necessary for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

65. The Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States, in his presentation entitled “Planning for sustainable development: evidence-based decision-making for better outcomes” noted that while the SDGs were important for the subregion, the solution to development was dependent on the countries themselves. Countries need to adhere to a coordinated, participatory, cyclical, and iterative process of thinking and acting to achieve economic, social, and environmental objectives in a balanced and integrated manner at the national level.

66. He noted that the current planning structures in most Caribbean SIDS are characterized by limited human resource capacity, dominance of the public sector, poorly structured and fragmented institutions, limited capacity of development partners, limited stakeholder participation, and the absence of effective decision-making support systems, including lack of timely and relevant statistics. Furthermore, he observed that the Caribbean does not have national sustainable development mechanisms, and proposed that immediate planning priorities should focus on a framework for establishing and attaining realistic human, economic, and environmental development targets. Planning imperatives should be based on vulnerability reduction and resilience enhancement.

67. The independent statistics consultant gave a presentation on “Enhancing and strengthening statistical infrastructure for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development in the Caribbean”. She gave an overview of the specific elements that make up the statistical ecosystem in the subregion, which include governance/policy, national statistical offices (NSOs), data management, ministries, departments and agencies, data sharing, and regional and international organizations such as CARICOM and ECLAC. She noted that the independence of the statistical agencies was a key issue as prevailing legal acts often impinge on the facilitation of data identification, management and access. She quoted the United Nations Handbook on Statistical Organizations (2003) which stated that “...a strong position of independence is essential for a statistical agency in order to establish credibility among its users and create a relationship of mutual respect and trust. Professional independence and impartiality have to be followed throughout the whole statistical process covering development, compilation, and dissemination of official statistics.”

68. She stressed that data management must be a national priority and proposed the establishment of a data management system to revise and develop policies, practices, and procedures in order to manage the information lifecycle needs of NSOs. Statistics Acts must be revised to provide more autonomy to national statistical systems to disseminate microdata. In addition, funding and technical capacity training and support from organizations such as CARICOM and ECLAC are crucial for NSOs to improve on their work and contribute to the sustainable development agenda process.

69. The Director, Dissemination Division, Statistics Canada presented a case study of the Statistics Canada Agency to illustrate how data is made accessible for policy planning, monitoring, and evaluation. According to the agency’s quality assurance framework, accessibility of statistical information refers to the ease with which it can be obtained from the agency. This includes the ease with which the existence of information can be ascertained, as well as the suitability of the form or medium through which the information can be accessed. The cost of the information may also be an aspect of accessibility for some users. He stated that Canada had long recognized that if statistical information was not accessible to data

users, then producing the data was a waste of resources. He highlighted Statistics Canada's open data model which speaks to open data that are free of cost, free of licensing restrictions, and are downloadable or machine readable.

70. He mentioned that Statistics Canada is currently engaged in a seven year project called "The Project for Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean" currently funded by the Government of Canada with coordination assistance from CARICOM and ECLAC. The aim of the project is to strengthen the statistical system of the Caribbean in order to address identified gaps to improve socioeconomic measures and support evidence-based policymaking.

71. He concluded by acknowledging that it was up to the NSOs to get the basics right so that significant amounts of data become readily available and accessible to all users. This should include data for monitoring and evaluating progress towards meeting the SDGs. He recommended that Member States should build and expand on what they already do especially since data that are not already part of the standard outputs may be required to support the measurement of these goals.

Discussions

Policy frameworks and implementation

72. In the ensuing discussion, representatives acknowledged that there is a disconnect in the regional planning scope of the Caribbean, since governments tend to focus more on reporting for the international treaties and pay scant attention to the regional reporting requirements. There should be more focus on the latter.

73. The meeting agreed that while countries formulate broad policy based on the goals framed at the international level, it is also important to remain fully cognizant of both regional and national situations. Countries should also undertake periodic national assessments using the SDG framework so that strong evidenced based policymaking can take place. For this reason, data and its quality are critical for effective policy formation and implementation.

74. Delegates agreed that policy frameworks in the region need to be improved. Policies are not sustainable because they tend to change with successive governments. There are also no proper monitoring mechanisms in place, a matter deserving ongoing attention.

75. Representatives also acknowledged that for policies to be sustainable, countries must do follow-up assessments. The region would benefit from following the recommendations set forth in the SAMOA Pathway by doing cost-benefit analysis for policies. This might reduce the incidence of policy plans being initiated without taking into consideration the resources required for their implementation.

76. It was strongly suggested that sustainable development councils or planning divisions should be established or reinstated to support implementation of the SDGs and to help in shaping sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean subregion.

Partnerships

77. The meeting gave consideration to the importance of partnerships for the success of SDG implementation. It was agreed that there needs to be formalized linkages across national and regional processes if the SDGs are to be achieved.

78. The meeting called on regional institutions and partners like Statistics Canada to support national governments' efforts to implement the SDGs.

79. It was agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that the SDG implementation is an inclusive process, embracing national and local partners, including civil society. To this end, capacity should be built for not just users of data but also as producers of data.

Data needs

80. It was agreed that Member States will need to re-examine the type of data products that would be used to monitor the SDGs such as those related to the environment and integration of vulnerability indices.

81. Delegations underscored the need for a region-wide initiative to build national and regional capacity for the collection of data to measure environmental, social, and economic vulnerabilities. In this regard, ongoing efforts of CARICOM in addressing the collection of data on the environment were acknowledged and the need to give renewed attention to collecting data on the environment in the Caribbean was underscored. In light of this, there is need for partnership and support in developing more comprehensive programmes for the collection and analysis of environmental statistics.

82. The importance of data collection and analysis to the success of SDG implementation was highlighted. It was acknowledged that Member States will need to increase trained staff in order to expand their statistical programmes. In this regard statistical offices lack sustainable institutional memory because of attrition of their trained workforce. Statistical capacity will therefore pose a formidable challenge to the Caribbean countries' ability to monitor and measure SDG implementation.

83. It was recommended that consideration be given to engaging the private sector and civil society in the statistical infrastructure development.

84. It was also suggested that a regional approach to data collection and analysis could help ease the burden on the national data collection systems.

6. Plenary session to consider the way forward for the post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean

85. The main conclusions on the way forward as regards the shaping of an SDG framework for the Caribbean subregion were presented by the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

Participants agreed on the following actions:

86. Regional institutions like ECLAC should play an important role in providing technical assistance in all areas including financing, disaster assessments, and data collection. They should also establish and house a repository of success stories, best practices, and lessons learnt from MDGs in moving ahead with the SDG post-2015 development agenda.

87. A vulnerability index should be finalised to support the case to be made for concessional funding from multilateral agencies for highly indebted, vulnerable middle income countries.

88. Non-traditional sources of financing, including South-South assistance and municipal bonds, should be explored.

89. Participants also agreed on the following twelve priority areas/SDGs for the Caribbean subregion:

Goal 1: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 2: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 3: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

Goal 4: Ensure gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 5: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

Goal 6: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 7: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization (and services development) and foster innovation.

Goal 8: Reduce inequality within and among nations.

Goal 9: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 10: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 11: Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, provide access to justice for all, and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

Goal 12: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

7. Closing

90. Closing statements were made by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

91. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica gave a brief overview of the notable areas of discussion and the recurring themes of the two-day meeting. Above all, he reiterated the need for regional stakeholders to work collaboratively toward achieving sustained development in the Caribbean subregion. He thanked all the symposium participants for their presence and contributions. He also thanked the ECLAC team for their support and hospitality in hosting the symposium.

92. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean stated that she valued the contributions but wanted persons to recognize that the conversation on SDG implementation was just beginning. She expressed the need to lift the discourse from the conceptual stage to a level that could be addressed by governments and decision makers to ultimately and effectively impact the people.

93. She also suggested that persons reflect on the existence of poverty in the subregion despite the status as middle income countries and consider prioritising partnerships and linkages as a way to fight poverty. Additionally, she invited participants to consider the building blocks for a voluntary, universal, periodic, state-led, participatory, multi-tiered post-2015 review process and the need for harmonization of goals in national development plans.

94. Finally, she expressed ECLAC's honour and privilege to have hosted the symposium stating that the favourable participation showed how much still needed to be done in the region, and energized the ECLAC team. She then thanked the entire ECLAC team for their work, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica, for his leadership and all participants for their presence and active participation.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Member States

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representative:

- Nadia Henry, Debt Manager, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

BAHAMAS

Representative:

- Tishka Francis, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the United Nations

BARBADOS

Representative:

- Travis Sinckler, Senior Environmental Officer, Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit, Ministry of the Environment and Drainage

Delegation member:

- Corey Archer, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

BELIZE

Representative:

- Tasha Young-Cain, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations

CUBA

Representative:

- Ramiro de León Torras, Specialist, Directorate for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

Delegation member:

H.E. Guillermo Vasquez Moreno, Ambassador of Cuba in Trinidad and Tobago

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representative:

- H.E. José A. Serulle Ramia, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Trinidad and Tobago

GRENADA

Representative:

- Fitzroy James, Director of Economic and Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Trade and Cooperatives

GUYANA

Representative:

- H.E. George Talbot*, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations

JAMAICA

Representative:

- Hon. Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Delegation member:

- H.E. David Prendergast, High Commissioner for Jamaica in Trinidad and Tobago
- Delita McCallum, Counsellor, High Commission for Jamaica in Trinidad and Tobago

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Representative:

- Lorna Hunkins, Special Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Representative:

- Laura Anthony-Browne, Director of Planning, Central Planning Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

SURINAME

Representative:

- H.E. Fidelia Graand-Galon, Ambassador of Suriname in Trinidad and Tobago

Delegation member:

- Raymond Landveld, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Suriname to the United Nations
- Oquemele Denz, First Secretary, Embassy of Suriname in Trinidad and Tobago

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative:

- Peter Mitchell, Assistant Director Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

Delegation member:

- Erica Fortune*, Senior Planning Officer (Ag.), Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development
- Joanna Ross, International Relations Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

B. Associate members

BERMUDA

Representative:

- Nicola O’Leary*, Director (a.i.), Sustainable Development Department

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Representative:

- Aubrey Bodden, Policy Analyst, Cabinet Office

Delegation member:

- Jamaal Anderson, International Affairs Analyst, Cabinet Office

MARTINIQUE

Representative:

- Catherine Aurore, Cabinet Associate, Office of the President of the Regional Council

MONTSERRAT

Representative:

- Angela Estwick, Director, Policy and Planning Department, Office of the Premier

SINT MAARTENRepresentative:

- Lucrecia Morales, Program Manager, Department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

C. Observers**AUSTRALIA**

- Gwendolene Roberts, Policy Officer/Public Diplomacy

BRAZIL

- H.E. Paulo Sergio Traballi Bozzi, Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil in Trinidad and Tobago

COSTA RICA

- Carmen Gil-Eraza, Chargée d'affaires, Embassy of Costa Rica in Trinidad and Tobago

GERMANY

- Michael Freudenberg, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Trinidad and Tobago

EL SALVADOR

- Hector Enrique Celarie Landaverde, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of El Salvador in Trinidad and Tobago

THE NETHERLANDS

- Philip Bastiaenen Charge d'affaires (a.i.), Embassy of the Netherlands in Trinidad and Tobago

D. United Nations Secretariat**United Nations Department of Public Information**

- Amanda Laurence, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area

E. United Nations Programmes and Funds**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

- Alison Drayton, Senior Advisor, UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Headquarters
- Richard Blewitt, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago
- Stacy Richards Kennedy, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Trinidad and Tobago
- Eugene Larsen-Hallock, Intern, UNDP Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Siti Batoul Ousseïn, Deputy Director, UNFPA, Jamaica
- Aurora Noguera-Ramkisson Assistant Representative, UNFPA Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Khin-Sandi Lwin, Representative, UNICEF Barbados

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Christine Arab*, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean

F. Specialized agencies**International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Dagmar Walter, Officer-in-Charge, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean
- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean
- Benita Rose, Intern, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Lystra Fletcher-Paul, FAO Representative for Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

- Bernadette Theodore-Gandi, PAHO/WHO Representative in Trinidad and Tobago

International Maritime Organization

- Anushka Alleng, Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

G. Other intergovernmental organizations**Organization of American States (OAS)**

- Cletus Springer*, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, OAS headquarters
- Riyadh Insanally, Representative, OAS in Trinidad and Tobago

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

- Edward Greene*, Chief, Technical Cooperation Division

Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

- Gordon Bispham*, Technical Adviser and Small Island Developing States Expert
- Kemberley Gittens, Senior Project Officer

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Amanda Charles, Sustainable Tourism Adviser

Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC)

- David Kloeden, Programme Coordinator

H. Other institutions**Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)**

- Anthony Mitchell, Research Coordinator

University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Compton Bourne, Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

I. Other participant

- Christine Norton, Consultant

J. Panellists

- Earl Boodoo, Independent Consultant
- Annicia Gayle-Geddes, Independent Consultant
- Sonia Jackson, Independent Consultant
- Bill Joyce, Director of Dissemination, Statistics Canada
- Ransford Smith, Independent Consultant
- Elizabeth Thompson, Former Executive Coordinator of Rio+20 and High-Level Consultant for the post-2015 development agenda
- Easton Williams, Director, Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Ewart Williams, Distinguished Fellow, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

K. Secretariat

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director (a.i.)
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Statistician, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Omar Bello, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Sheldon Mc Lean, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Jeanette Song'e, Administrative Officer, Administration Section
- Sheila Stuart, Social Development Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Michael Hendrickson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Peter Nicholls, Chief, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Willard Phillips, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Alexander Voccia, Public Information Officer, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Johann Brathwaite, Coordinator (a.i.), Programme Support Unit
- Michael Milligan, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Robert Williams, Associate Information Management Officer, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Dale Alexander, Computer Information Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Denise Balgobin, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Tricia Blackman, Library Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Machel Pantin, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Luanne Serieux-Lubin, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Nyasha Skerrette, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Rossano Thompson, Computer Information Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Elizabeth Thorne, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne, Staff Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Ana Fernández, Staff Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit

- Juda Francis, Security Assistant, Administration Unit
- Angela Martin-Forbes, Staff Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Shawn Campbell, Team Assistant, Administration Unit
- Jeniffer Sankar-Sooknarine, Team Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Roberta Doorgadeen, Research Assistant (*on-the-job training*), Economic Development Unit
- Runako Henry, Computer Information System Assistant (*on-the-job training*), Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Esther Kissoon, Research Assistant (*on-the-job training*), Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Blaine Marcano, Programme Assistant (*on-the-job training*), Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit

Annex II**PROGRAMME****Wednesday, 24 June 2015**

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| 8 – 8.30 a.m. | Registration |
| 8.30 – 9 a.m. | Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean • Remarks by Patricia McKenzie, Vice President of Operations, Caribbean Development Bank • Statement by Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica |
| 9 – 9.10 a.m. | Adoption of the agenda |
| 9.10 – 10.45 a.m. | <p>Panel 1: Review and assessment of the Caribbean experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Raymond Landveld, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Caribbean experience with implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the way forward within the context of the post-2015 development agenda</i>
Elizabeth Thompson, former Executive Coordinator of Rio+20 and high-level consultant for the post-2015 development agenda • <i>The Bermuda experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals</i>
Nicola O’Leary, Acting Director, Sustainable Development Department, Bermuda • <i>The Jamaica experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals</i>
Easton Williams, Director, Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica • <i>The Trinidad and Tobago experience with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals</i>
Erica Fortune, Senior Planning Officer, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago |
| 10.45 – 11.05 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11.05 – 12 noon | Discussion |
| 12 noon – 2 p.m. | Lunch |

2 – 3.30 p.m.

Panel 2: Implementing the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean: identification of priorities and critical issues

Moderator: Travis Sinckler, Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, Barbados

- *Setting the context for attaining sustainable development in the Caribbean*
Ransford Smith, ECLAC Consultant
- *Integrating the SAMOA Pathway in the post-2015 development agenda for Caribbean small island developing States*
Gordon Bispham, Caribbean Policy Development Centre
- *The sustainable development goals as a platform for advancing social development in the Caribbean*
Annicia Gayle-Geddes, independent consultant
- *Human rights and gender equality issues in the sustainable development goals: priorities for the Caribbean*
Christine Arab, Representative of the UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

3.30 – 3.50 p.m.

Coffee break

3.50 – 4.30 p.m.

Discussion

Thursday, 25 June 2015

9 – 10.30 a.m.

Panel 3: Financing the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean

Moderator: Compton Bourne, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Former Principal, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago

- *Financing for sustainable development in the Caribbean: the role of domestic finance*
Earl Boodoo, independent consultant
- *Innovative financing for the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean*
Ewart Williams, Distinguished Fellow, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago
- *Financing for sustainable development in the Caribbean: the role of donor agencies*
Edward C. Greene, Chief, Technical Cooperation Division, Caribbean Development Bank
- *Financing sustainable development in the Caribbean through partnerships: engaging the international community*
H.E. George Talbot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations

10.30 – 11 a.m.

Discussion

- 11 – 11.15 a.m. Coffee break
- 11.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **Panel 4: Enhancing institutional infrastructure and governance for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development in the Caribbean**
- Moderator: Alison Drayton, Senior Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ***Planning for sustainable development: evidence-based decision-making for better outcomes***
Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States
 - ***Enhancing and strengthening statistical infrastructure for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development in the Caribbean***
Sonia Jackson, independent consultant
 - ***Making data more accessible for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation***
Bill Joyce, Director, Dissemination Division, Statistics Canada
- 12.30 – 1 p.m. Discussion
- 1 – 3:30 p.m. Lunch
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. **Plenary session to consider the way forward for the post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean**
- 4:30 – 5 p.m. Closing ceremony
- Statement by Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica
 - Statement by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean