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Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBPROGRAMME 13 OF THE PROGRAMME
OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Originally established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948, it aims to contribute to the economic and social development of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves the needs of the Central American subregion, as well as Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti; and in December 1966, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was established in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, ECLAC maintains country offices in Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Montevideo and Bogota, as well as a liaison office in Washington, D.C.

2. Pursuant to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/5, entitled "Organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean", the ECLAC secretariat (a) provides substantive secretariat services and documentation for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; (b) undertakes studies, research and other support activities within the terms of reference of the Commission; (c) promotes economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration; (d) gathers, organizes, interprets and disseminates information and data relating to the economic and social development of the region; (e) provides advisory services to Governments, at their request, and plans, organizes and executes programmes of technical cooperation; (f) formulates and promotes development cooperation activities and projects of regional and subregional scope commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region and acts as an executing agency for such projects; (g) organizes conferences and intergovernmental and expert group meetings and sponsors training workshops, symposiums and seminars; (h) assists in bringing a regional perspective to global problems and forums and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels; and (i) coordinates ECLAC activities with those of the major departments and offices at United Nations Headquarters, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations with a view to avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity in the exchange of information.

3. Subprogramme 13 of the ECLAC programme of work 2014-2015 ("Subregional activities in the Caribbean") aims to promote and strengthen development within the Caribbean subregion and enhance the subregion's cooperation with Latin American countries by achieving (a) strengthened capacities of policy makers from countries in the subregion to formulate, implement and monitor measures to overcome development challenges and promote economic diversification and social transformation; (b) enhanced capacity and technical expertise to follow up on the major international agreements in the economic, social and environmental fields, including follow up to the Mauritius Strategy for implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action; and (c) enhanced capacity of Caribbean governments and institutions to promote intra- and inter-regional cooperation and integration. In the light of this overall objective, normative as well as technical cooperation activities, in line with the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, were implemented by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, subregional organizations and other development partners.

4. Within this framework, the core functions of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean are (a) to conduct research on economic and social development in the countries of the Caribbean and formulate proposals and recommendations relating to such studies (see annex 1); (b) to formulate proposals and render technical cooperation to the countries and institutions in the subregion in relation to

a wide range of issues related to economic, environmental and social development (see annex 2); (c) to provide secretariat services to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC); and (d) to prepare country notes on the subregion and contribute to studies and reports prepared by ECLAC (ST/SGB/2000/5). Activities were implemented in collaboration with other divisions and offices of ECLAC, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and various other development partners in the Caribbean. These included the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

5. This report highlights the activities carried out by ECLAC in the Caribbean subregion between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015. Subprogramme 13 of the ECLAC programme of work 2014-2015 (“Subregional activities in the Caribbean”) covers the Commission’s work in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. Subprogramme 12 (“Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America”) includes activities conducted in the Caribbean member States of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In addition, countries of the Caribbean were included in activities organized under the 12 other substantive subprogrammes of the ECLAC programme of work 2014-2015, namely: (a) linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation; (b) production and innovation; (c) macroeconomic policies and growth; (d) financing for development; (e) social development and equity; (f) mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development; (g) population and development; (h) sustainable development and human settlements; (i) natural resources and infrastructure; (j) planning of public administration; (k) statistics; and (l) support regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations.

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

6. Sustainable development prospects remained challenging for the Caribbean over the last biennium, particularly for the highly indebted countries of the subregion.

7. The unsustainably high level of accumulated debt throughout the subregion was identified as the most critical development issue to be addressed. In 2013, 10 Caribbean countries had debt-to-GDP ratios that exceeded the accepted critical threshold of 60%, and several rank among the most highly indebted countries in the world, with debt ratios of well over 100% of GDP. In 2013, the total debt burden of the Caribbean amounted to US\$ 49 billion, or 72% of subregional GDP. This situation has limited governments’ capacity to support public investment and sustain social protection programmes. Growth, which has remained anaemic since the global economic crisis, has been further stymied by this debt overhang. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the Caribbean have not been as robust in the post-crisis period and have not boosted economic activity as expected, with accumulated FDI stock generating less than proportionate economic growth. It has thus become increasingly clear that the countries of the subregion will not be able to grow their way out of this debt crisis.

8. ECLAC has therefore launched a debt relief proposal for Caribbean countries, which includes forgiveness of multilateral concessional debt; the creation of a Caribbean resilience fund and a Caribbean macroeconomic and stabilization fund; debt relief for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and debt buyback schemes for countries with high levels of public debt owed to private creditors. The first phase of the proposal seeks to stimulate renewed dialogue between Caribbean States and key bilateral and multilateral donors to achieve a gradual write-off of the total multilateral external public debt of the beneficiary countries. In return, these countries would make annual payments to a Caribbean resilience fund to address natural disaster mitigation, finance climate change adaptation measures, promote investment in green industries to reignite growth, foster structural transformation and boost social development.

9. It is important to reflect on the major developments that have affected the subregion's economic performance, exports and private sector competitiveness. CARICOM economies are relatively open, with many member States registering openness indices in excess of 100%. While trade and market liberalization have affected individual Caribbean economies differently, almost all have been unable to absorb the adjustment costs of reducing tariffs, removing non-tariff barriers, eliminating export subsidies, and liberalizing services and financial and investment regimes.

10. The subregion's multilateral and bilateral trade liberalization efforts have not only increased the international competition faced by domestic firms, but have also reduced the policy space available to small vulnerable economies, which is needed to safeguard the agricultural sector's role in ensuring food security, rural development, to generate foreign exchange earnings, and to facilitate private sector growth and development.

11. In line with the imperatives of globalization, the Caribbean has increasingly sought to quicken the subregion's pace of integration into the multilateral trading system, by, inter alia, negotiating bilateral trade agreements with developing economies in the western hemisphere and, more recently, with traditional trading partners, such as the European Union. These trading arrangements are seen as a means of improving the quality and predictability of access to key export markets, while strengthening the subregion's wider integration into the global economy.

12. It was anticipated that the resulting increased trade flows would deliver economies of scale, productivity and efficiency gains and optimal resource use; however, the subregion's competitiveness and export performance, across both goods and services, has continued to be constrained by several structural gaps, which have led to the steady decline in trade complementarity. These gaps are widest in the areas of trade-related infrastructure, connectivity, trade-related institutions, production systems and private sector innovation. As a result there are significant untapped opportunities for trade in intermediate goods, the building blocks of value chains, thus restricting countries' participation in regional or global value chains.

13. Not surprisingly, the subregion therefore has only a marginal share of global trade (0.03% in 2014), which has declined steadily since 2008 (0.17%). It is also estimated that the subregion is operating at 46% below its true trade potential, meaning that the subregion has been unable to take advantage of the market access opportunities created by its myriad of bilateral trade agreements. The subregion's services exports have also become less competitive.

14. The adjustment process in the post crisis period in Caribbean economies has been largely characterized by fiscal consolidation and debt reduction programmes, particularly in the more highly indebted economies, and by the decline in regional and extra-regional demand for major Caribbean exports, which has further tightened the fiscal grip. This has further dampened impetus towards trade and economic integration.

15. The Economic Partnership Agreement between the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and the European Union, which came into force at the end of 2008, sought to address the absence of trade-led growth within the subregion by leveraging development support and market access towards deepening subregional integration and enhancing supply-side capacity and competitiveness within CARIFORUM. However, as revealed in the five-year review of the partnership, the agreement has not yet succeeded in improving intra-regional trade or subregional integration.

16. In order to address effectively the broad spectrum of development challenges facing the Caribbean economies, the subregion should consider adopting a new regional integration platform, which focuses on generating greater levels of domestic and foreign direct investment, increasing trade competitiveness and expanding exports. This would undoubtedly require, inter alia, deeper trade and economic ties with the subregion's natural trading partners, particularly those in Central and South America; more public-private partnerships to produce the key regional public goods needed for structural transformation; and harmonized regional policies in areas such as sustainable resource use, developing renewable energy sources, climate change adaptation and fiscal incentives.

17. For the Caribbean Community, the regionalism-driven CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) was intended to provide a framework for strengthening integration and cooperation among CARICOM economies, and a platform from which individual member States could integrate further into the global economy. However, diseconomies of scale in production, over-reliance on a few traditional export markets and a disproportionate vulnerability to external economic shocks and natural disasters has limited the ability of trade to become an engine of growth for the subregion.

18. Accordingly, regional governments' policies and development financing inflows should seek to nudge the region towards broader comparative advantage-based production by facilitating the production of competitiveness-enhancing public goods in the areas of energy, transport, and information and communication technology (ICT).

19. In an effort to stimulate production and expand exports, regional governments have consistently called for the establishment of a rapid trans-shipment service in the southern Caribbean; the modernization of regional port infrastructure; the development of a Caribbean renewable energy portfolio to harmonize national customs legislation; the establishment of a free movement of goods protocol within CSME; the interoperability of national single windows; and the creation of a regional goods transit system for cargo transported by sea.

20. The increased interconnectivity resulting from those trade-related public goods stands to have the greatest positive impact on regional competitiveness, by lowering input costs and enhancing labour productivity. This would allow for a shift in production to more sophisticated products and services, which are higher up the value chain.

21. The energy sector remains integral to economic development and inclusive growth in the Caribbean subregion. However, the high cost of electricity continued to undermine the subregion's competitiveness and growth, and created additional hardships for citizens. The energy challenge facing the subregion was a result of the subregion's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, which accounted for up to 95% of energy consumption, while renewable energy represented less than 3% of the Caribbean's total electricity consumption. Thus, diversification of the subregion's energy portfolio mix is one of the key priorities. Pursuing energy efficiency and greater reliance on renewable energy sources will help to conserve the environment, strengthen productivity and competitiveness, and improve the lives of the poor.

22. Climate change represents a serious challenge to the sustainable development of the Caribbean; the vulnerability of the island and coastal States of the subregion to the impact of this phenomenon is well established. Some 70% of the beaches of the subregion are losing shoreline at a rate of between 0.25 m to 9 m per year, which could have a major impact on the approximately 70% of Caribbean populations, dwellings and infrastructure that are situated in coastal areas. Climate change has also taken a toll on marine and terrestrial resources, which are integral to the tourism industry, the mainstay of the subregion's service-based economies.

23. It is important to recall that since 1990, the Caribbean has recorded some 328 natural disasters—approximately 13 each year—with six Eastern Caribbean States ranking among the 10 most disaster-prone countries in the world. Damage over this period totalled some US\$ 27.3 billion in 2014 prices, however, this is an underestimate because information on stock damage was available for only 48% of the events, and the effects on flows and losses were not estimated. Ultimately, the subregion's population and assets were assessed by the World Bank as among the most exposed to natural disasters in the world.

24. The promotion of social inclusion and equality represented another major challenge facing the Caribbean subregion. Despite progress in the area of human development, social indicators revealed high levels of unemployment, poverty and crime as glaring social gaps. The subregion's poor growth performance in recent years worsened the situation of vulnerable groups, especially youth and women. Even though women's participation in education and the labour market has increased, they still bear the burden of unpaid work and caregiving in households and communities. The Caribbean therefore suffers from both feminization and juvenilization of poverty. In this context, environmental vulnerability, together with poverty, places the urban and rural poor at risk in many coastal and low-lying communities in the Caribbean.

25. Lastly, the age structure of the Caribbean population is projected to change appreciably over the next 20 years, with persons aged 60 and over expected to make up 22% of the total population by 2035. This ageing of the population will place tremendous stress on already stretched health-care and social services and increase the need for development strategies to incorporate rights-based approaches for older persons. Moreover, while population ageing is an important development challenge for most countries of the subregion, it is particularly acute for several of the associate member territories, where the old-age dependency ratio already stands at 20, compared with ratios for member States that range from 12 to 18. The ageing population will have a major impact on public expenditure, with public funding of pensions and health-care services increasing significantly as a share of GDP.

26. Addressing these challenges was, and will continue to be, the focus of the work under the subprogramme as part of a broad framework of support to advance Caribbean development within the context of 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. SUBPROGRAMME 13: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

27. During the biennium, the ECLAC subregional headquarters contributed directly to advancing the sustainable development process in the countries of the Caribbean subregion and supported the shaping of their response to the mandates established in the major global and regional development platforms to which they have committed. ECLAC also sought to respond directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States by offering technical and advisory services for capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and by undertaking necessary research to guide appropriate policy intervention.

28. As a result, the capacity of the countries to meet their sustainable development challenges was markedly increased, as evidenced by the acknowledgement of ECLAC policy and programme advice for action from specific member States on such issues as praedial larceny, energy efficiency, population projections, competitive pricing, and the transformation of the manufacturing sector. Further, in response to repeated requests from Caribbean member States, the subregional headquarters once again assumed responsibility for disaster recovery through damage and loss assessment and resilience-building for the subregion.

29. Member States actively engaged in high-level consultations, exploring ways to strengthen subregional integration and increase trade as an effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean. Moreover, the established mechanisms for consultation and coordination of decision-making at the subregional level were used to undertake comprehensive reviews and assessments to shape subregional strategies in response to specific Caribbean concerns relating to the global development agenda. Such support included the deep engagement in the review process of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the consideration of an innovative mechanism to address the serious debt challenge facing many countries and territories of the Caribbean within the context of financing for development, and the prioritizing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development around the pressing development needs of the Caribbean.

30. In support of subregional advocacy, the subregional headquarter, at the request of CARICOM, undertook a comprehensive study on the progress in implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM countries and the European Union on trade and economic development in the Caribbean. That study informed the negotiating stance of the CARIFORUM States in their engagement with the European Union, during the first of the mandated five-year reviews, on improving the impact of this important trade agreement.

1. Research on economic, social and sustainable development

31. During the biennium 2014-2015, the ECLAC subregional headquarters facilitated and supported the shaping of subregional perspectives on key issues of interest and concern by conducting research economic, social and sustainable development issues, and convening meetings, seminars and workshops. The reports, containing recommendations for policymakers and decision-makers, were reviewed at ad hoc meetings of experts convened in programme areas, such as trade performance and opportunities, energy efficiency and renewable energy, barriers to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, data and statistical systems, and the information society and knowledge economy.

32. The annual *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* presents a comparative analysis of macroeconomic trends in the Caribbean member States against a backdrop of national, regional and international developments. The 2015 edition includes an in-depth discussion of the subregion's economic performance and states that, while the Caribbean subregion still faces a number of fiscal and structural challenges, the situation is expected to improve, with positive growth over the medium-term, thanks to its improved performance in major export markets and greater domestic investment. The subregional headquarters also contributed a Caribbean perspective to the ECLAC flagship publication *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy 2014*, as set out in a chapter on fostering regional integration in the Caribbean to strengthen external trade relations. The chapter examines the state of trade and economic integration between CARICOM, Latin America and the developed world, as well as a proposed value chain approach to enhance production and trade complementarity. Input was also provided on gender and equality in the Caribbean labour market to the *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

33. Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), ECLAC carried out a study to compare the estimates made using the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology with actual recovery costs incurred by countries, as part of the development of the CCRIF catastrophe insurance portfolios. One of the key findings of the study was that, while the DaLA methodology provided good comparable estimates, economic losses and secondary effects that were accounted for in damage assessments were rarely compensated.

34. With the support of the GIZ, ECLAC assessed mechanisms to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector of selected Caribbean countries, noting that transport and electricity generation accounted for approximately 90% of national energy consumption in those countries. The study proposed a number of recommendations to promote energy efficiency and fuel diversification in the transport sector, including developing policies to encourage transport system and vehicle efficiency and the creation of institutional linkages between the transport and energy sectors. ECLAC prepared a study that explores the main factors that influence demand for maritime passenger transportation in the Caribbean, including the movement of persons within the region and its potential to encourage further integration and sustainable development.

35. The study “Strategies to overcome barriers to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean” revealed that the most important barrier was the lack of consultation and coordination among relevant institutions at the national and regional levels. Inadequate technical expertise for the preparation of reports under existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the absence of technology transfer and insufficient financial resources were also highlighted as distinct barriers. The study contains recommendations to overcome these barriers, including strengthening governance frameworks, greater investment in science, technology and innovation, more predictable financial support, and strengthening research and data collection capacity in relevant agencies.

36. As part of its collaboration with regional development partners, the subregional headquarters assisted CARICOM in its first comprehensive five-year assessment of the impact of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and CARIFORUM on trade and economic development in the Caribbean, by preparing a study on the progress made in implementation of the agreement. This report was carried out in order to determine the impact of the agreement, including the costs and consequences of implementation, and to amend its provisions and adjust their application as necessary.

37. Two expert meetings, respectively, provided input and reviewed a study investigating the potential impact of digital currency, such as Bitcoin, in the Caribbean. One of the key conclusions of those meetings was that there was significant potential value in facilitating the exchange of views between entrepreneurs in the new digital currency industries and regulators, preventing money laundering, and promoting macroeconomic stability. A meeting of experts was also convened on regional approaches to develop e-government applications in the Caribbean. Notwithstanding the coordination difficulties that could impede effective implementation of regional e-government projects, the meeting recommended that projects should be driven by the individual needs of participating countries, rather than donor preferences or external pressures exerted by vendors.

38. An expert group meeting was held to discuss the data challenges confronting the Caribbean in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals. An ECLAC study on the use of big data for official statistics in the Caribbean was considered at the meeting, as were the opportunities and challenges that big data presents. The expert group agreed that big data solutions should be shaped to suit the context of the Caribbean subregion and that a sustainable financing strategy would also be needed to ensure the long-term viability of big data initiatives. The meeting recommended the establishment of a regional body to serve as a repository of Caribbean big data as well as the creation of a centre of excellence in big data analytics to promote regional expertise in the methodologies and tools of big data analytics.

39. The subregional headquarters also convened an expert group meeting to discuss proposals for expanding researchers' access to Caribbean census microdata. A study undertaken by the subregional headquarters on the value of disseminating Caribbean census microdata to researchers was examined and the meeting recommended that the subregion should take steps to anonymize microdata and make them accessible to researchers. To achieve maximum benefit, a balance would have to be found between confidentiality and the usefulness of anonymized data.

40. Annex 1 lists the research publications produced by the subregional headquarters during the reporting period.

2. Caribbean Development and Cooperation

41. Under the Subprogramme, the twenty-fifth session of CDCC was successfully convened at the ministerial level. Representatives from 10 member States¹ attended the session, including 5 ministers. Representatives from four associate members² also attended. At the session, the participants reviewed the Caribbean's preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, addressed key Caribbean priorities ahead of the Conference and their integration into the post-2015 development agenda, explored strategies to promote sustainable growth and build resilience in Caribbean small island developing (SIDS), received information on the strategic vision and activities of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium and beyond, and reaffirmed the efforts undertaken by ECLAC to support its associate members. Within the ambit of that meeting, the updated DaLA methodology was launched, which was of particular importance to the Caribbean, since addressing the ongoing, critical vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS is one of the pillars of the subprogramme and damage and loss assessment is an integral part of that. At this meeting the participants welcomed the announcement of the Commission's decision to return responsibility for disaster response, damage and loss assessment and resilience-building for the region as a whole to the subregional headquarters.

42. The Committee considered the report of the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and summary of conclusions and recommendations from its technical-level meeting and adopted the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, which was subsequently approved by ECLAC at its thirty-fifth session, held in Peru in May 2014. The Committee also welcomed the accession of Bermuda, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Martinique as associate members of ECLAC.

43. Policymakers and experts from member countries and partner institutions also attended meetings under the subprogramme on global and regional development issues affecting the subregion. The sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States served to review the progress made by Caribbean countries in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and explored strategies to overcome barriers to its implementation. A draft ICT platform to facilitate knowledge-sharing and reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy was presented for discussion, and the participants were updated on preparations by the Caribbean countries for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

² Bermuda, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

44. The third Caribbean Development Roundtable was convened with the theme “Exploring strategies for sustainable development in Caribbean small island developing States”. Thirty-seven conclusions and recommendations emerged from the Roundtable, which aimed at developing a vision for addressing the vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS through the identification of strategies for building resilience and facilitation of ideas for enhancing growth and development. A number of these recommendations were subsequently programmed for implementation in the programme of work for 2016-2017. The Roundtable also served as a sound basis for the stimulation of relevant policy debate at the twenty-fifth session of CDCC, which immediately followed the Roundtable.

45. As part of its response to the mandate to conduct activities to celebrate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (General Assembly resolution 67/206), a high-level event was convened, during the twenty-fifth session of CDCC, to showcase the rich cultural, artistic and musical diversity of the Caribbean and help raise awareness and promote wider knowledge and understanding of the critical issues relevant to the sustainable development aspirations of Caribbean SIDS. An essay competition for Caribbean youth was coordinated under the subprogramme, focusing on their perception of critical issues facing SIDS and ways to create opportunities for growth and development, particularly for youth, in the subregion.

46. On the margins of the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, a Caribbean consultation entitled “Optimizing the benefits of trade and regional integration for the Caribbean” was held in Lima in May 2014. That consultation engaged Caribbean high-level representatives attending the session on possible avenues for strengthening regional integration and making trade a more effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean.

47. The Caribbean Technical Meeting on the Beijing+20 Review and Appraisal of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action brought together Caribbean directors and heads of national women’s organizations and gender bureaux, government partners, civil society, United Nations agencies and Caribbean partners to review the progress made and propose recommendations on complying with the Beijing commitments in the light of the post-2015 development agenda.

48. A symposium was convened under the subprogramme on sustainable development goals for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda. The discussions at the symposium were guided by an ECLAC report, which detailed the main development challenges facing the subregion, as input to the process of identifying priorities for sustainable development goals and targets. Participants also reflected on the need to agree on appropriate indicators to assess, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean. Data-gathering and evidence-based decision-making were also identified as vital to the setting of realistic and achievable targets.

49. At the seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of CDCC, participants considered proposals to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals and endorsed the symposium recommendation to establish a regional framework to monitor and support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean. That framework would also consider which indicators would best measure and monitor implementation of those Goals in the Caribbean context.

50. At the Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons, organized by the subregional headquarters in collaboration with partners from Dominica and Martinique, participants considered a range of issues and challenges related to population ageing, including the protection and promotion of older persons’ human rights; economic security for older persons; strategies to promote healthy ageing; the provision of social care services for older persons; the protection of older persons against financial, physical and psychological abuse; and the promotion of active ageing to facilitate the continued participation of older persons in all aspects of society. Participants underscored, *inter alia*, the need to improve pension provisions, to address the financial exploitation of older persons and to strengthen legislation to prevent elder abuse.

51. Annex 2 lists the meetings organized for the Caribbean under the subprogramme.

3. Technical cooperation for economic and social development

52. Under the subprogramme, steps were taken in response to various requests from CDCC members. Jamaica requested support for policy-makers in connection with strategies for reducing the incidence of praedial larceny, which was a growing concern for rural economies in the Caribbean. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study were welcomed, and consideration given to the adoption of the recommendations.

53. The Government of Saint Lucia received assistance in connection with a street lighting study, which recommended the replacement of high-pressure sodium lights with light-emitting diodes. That recommendation was presented to and accepted by senior government officials. That decision is expected to result in considerable financial savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced dependence on fossil fuels and better street lighting for the country as a whole.

54. The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands requested technical assistance in developing population projections for a 15-year horizon and staff training in developing national-level projections. It is anticipated that, thanks to the improved national estimates, policymakers will be able to conduct robust, evidence-based policy development and planning.

55. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, concerned with the problem of rising consumer prices (for both goods and services), requested an analysis of the contributing factors with a view to developing strategies to improve the purchasing power of its citizens. The findings of the study and the recommendations for the development of a framework for consumer protection were accepted by government officials and will be submitted for cabinet policy approval in early 2016.

56. Saint Kitts and Nevis requested guidance in the implementation of key aspects of its National Manufacturing Strategy, which was developed by the Government to orient the medium-term development of the country's manufacturing sector. The recommendations provided were accepted by the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and will be included in the national budget to be presented in 2016.

57. ECLAC also contributed to building national capacities in the Caribbean by convening training workshops and seminars. Regionally, 27 technical experts from four countries³ received training in the use of the software for Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM), which will serve to develop applications for dissemination of microdata from national censuses and surveys. The training was expected to facilitate increased public access and more widespread use for evidence-based policymaking, and research and development.

58. In addition, 16 experts from eight countries⁴ received training on the fundamental aspects of time-use surveys, which enabled those experts to conduct time-use surveys, and accurately measure paid and unpaid work, thus shedding light on gender dynamics within the household, the care economy and women's contribution to national production.

³ Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago

⁴ Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

59. In November 2015, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), ECLAC led the visit to evaluate the damage and losses caused by Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas. IDB will use the findings of this report as the basis for the Bahamas recovery strategy. This was the first assessment to be conducted in the subregion since the Damage and Loss Assessment was reinstated as a strategic development pillar of the subprogramme.

60. Annex 3 lists the seminars and workshops conducted by ECLAC, while annex 4 sets out the technical assistance provided to the countries of the Caribbean under the subprogramme.

4. Resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

61. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee adopted the following resolutions: resolution 81(XXV), Support for the work of the ECLAC Port of Spain office in Disaster Assessments and Resilience Building in the Caribbean; resolution 82(XXV), Promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities; resolution 83(XXV), Support for the findings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable; resolution 84(XXV), Revitalization of the coordinating roles and responsibilities of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism; resolution 85(XXV), Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean; resolution 86(XXV), Admission of Bermuda as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 87(XXV), Admission of Curaçao as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 88(XXV), Admission of Guadeloupe as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 89(XXV), Admission of Martinique as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; and resolution 90(XXV), Support for Caribbean small island developing States in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

62. In accordance with the commitment to renew the delivery of assistance to member States in order to strengthen their risk assessment and resilience-building capacities, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed the transfer of the Economic Affairs Officer with overall responsibility for the disaster assessment and resilience-building portfolio in Latin America and the Caribbean from ECLAC headquarters in 2015. A number of activities, including capacity-building, are currently under way and others have been incorporated into the subregional headquarters' programme of work for 2016-2017 (resolution 81(XXV)).

63. In pursuance of the recommendations which emerged from the third Caribbean Development Roundtable, particularly with respect to public debt management, a project has been launched to strengthen the technical capacity of selected Caribbean public finance managers to ensure more effective forecasting and planning in public finance. In addition, representatives of member States from Latin America and the Caribbean were provided with technical support regarding the region's financing for development priorities. To that end, staff from the subregional headquarters briefed representatives at a special CELAC session, held in New York, providing a Caribbean perspective on regional needs and priorities. Those discussions were invaluable in helping to shape a regional position in the lead-up to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 (resolution 83(XXV)).

64. Significant progress has been made on establishing an institutional framework for reporting on the progress of SIDS towards the attainment of the goals under the Mauritius Strategy, and now the SAMOA Pathway outcomes. ECLAC, in its capacity as secretariat of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, completed a full pilot test of an online reporting framework with Grenada and Jamaica. The pilot focused on two thematic areas of the Mauritius Strategy, "Climate change and sea-level rise" and "Natural and environmental disasters". Following consultations, the platform is being adjusted for potential use by the wider community (resolution 84(XXV)).

65. The subregional headquarters also expressed sympathy on the death of Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Adviser to the President of Guyana and sitting Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, in October 2014.

66. Efforts were enhanced, under the subprogramme, to foster greater inclusion of CDCC associate members in ECLAC research. Four associate members (Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, and Turks and Caicos Islands) participated in the Caribbean Technical Meeting on the Beijing+20 Review and Appraisal of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, both held in November 2014. Their national reports formed part of the “Caribbean Synthesis Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”, which formed part of the formal documentation for the meeting of the Presiding Officers. The Synthesis Review helped to focus attention on the progress made by associate members on gender-specific development issues (resolution 85(XXV)).

67. In keeping with the recommendations of the “Final report of the second phase of the in-depth evaluation of the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the Caribbean”, which calls for greater collaboration in regional development thinking, the process of providing support to member States was adapted. Under the subprogramme, broader engagement was fostered by providing technical support to the negotiation processes on several key global topics, including SIDS, gender equality and financing for development. Efforts have been made to facilitate the drafting process to represent adequately the needs of the subregion and identify specific issues that reflect unique Caribbean vulnerabilities and needs. The subregional headquarters sought to facilitate regional development thinking by offering its expertise and leadership at events, including a series of debates on gender organized by the University of the West Indies (resolution 85(XXV)).

68. The subregional headquarters increased its visibility by pursuing greater collaboration with ECLAC headquarters to ensure full coverage of the Caribbean development experience in flagship publications. Furthermore, the full staffing of the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit has enabled the subregional headquarters to expand its media coverage through the publication of the Hummingbird Newsletter and an enhanced social media presence. On the whole, the subregional headquarters is better positioned to engage with the broader community to support economic and social development in the subregion (resolution 85(XXV)).

69. The subregional headquarters supported the promotion of the interests of SIDS in the sustainable development agenda by convening a meeting in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. That meeting brought together senior government officials and experts involved in the negotiations on the draft outcome document for the Conference, who conducted a detailed review and put forward substantive technical input for the draft text. This intervention ensured that the principal Caribbean SIDS concerns were well reflected in the negotiated document that was adopted by the Conference (resolution 90(XXV)).

C. ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN UNDER OTHER SUBPROGRAMMES

70. Countries of the Caribbean participated in a wide variety of activities implemented under the 13 other subprogrammes of the ECLAC programme of work 2014-2015.

1. Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean

71. Member States from the Caribbean attended a number of intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC for Latin America and the Caribbean (see table 1).

Table 1
Intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC for Latin America and the Caribbean

Meeting	Venue	Date
Twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	Kingston	25 April 2014
Thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Lima	5-9 May 2014
Fiftieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	19-20 May 2014
Twenty-eighth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	New York, USA	22 May 2014
First session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	9-10 June 2014
Twenty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning	Antigua, Guatemala	19-20 June 2014
Twenty-ninth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Meeting on the challenges of monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda	Santiago	28-29 August 2014
Fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	4-6 November 2014
Preparatory meeting for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	San José	5-7 November 2014
First meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	12-14 November 2014
Fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	17-19 November 2014
Thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	New York, USA	19-20 March 2015
Sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	16 April 2015
First meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	5-7 May 2015
Fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	26-28 May 2015
Second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago	24-26 June 2015
Seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	Port of Spain	26 June 2015
Intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)	Santiago	28 July 2015

Meeting	Venue	Date
Fifty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santo Domingo	30-31 July 2015
Twenty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)	Santiago	12 August 2015
Intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)	Santiago	3 September 2015
Second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Mexico City	6-9 October 2015
Second meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	Panama City	27-29 October 2015
Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Lima	2-4 November 2015

72. The report of the twenty-fifth session of CDCC was submitted to the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, held from 5 to 9 May 2014 in Lima. On the basis of that report, ECLAC adopted resolution 680(XXXV) (Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee), in which it took note of the report on the twenty-fifth session of CDCC and the report of the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of CDCC, and called upon the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the respective decisions and resolutions. Representatives from 11 CDCC member States⁵, including four ministers and three associate members⁶ took part in the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC.

2. Activities for the Caribbean

73. A number of technical cooperation activities in the Caribbean were carried out by the substantive divisions at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago and by the subregional headquarters in Mexico during the reporting period, and are included in annex 5.

D. CONCLUSION

74. The programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 focused on a multidisciplinary set of activities including research and analysis, capacity building, technical assistance and training, and the convening of symposiums, workshops and intergovernmental meetings intended to promote regional discourse and the search for solutions for urgent development challenges facing the subregion. The 2016-2017 activities undertaken will increasingly be organized in collaboration with other ECLAC divisions and development partners in the Caribbean to expand the reach and impact of the subprogramme's work, and will continue to build upon the achievements of the previous biennium.

⁵ Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

⁶ Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico.

Annex 1

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS UNDER SUBPROGRAMME 13:
SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

- Information and communication technologies for disaster risk management in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.430)
- Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy: Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report (LC/CAR/L.431)
- Situation of unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean: the measurement of unpaid work through time-use studies (LC/CAR/L.432)
- Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean: trends, determinants and policies (LC/CAR/L.433)
- Strategies to overcome barriers to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.441)
- Regional integration in the Caribbean: the role of trade agreements and structural transformation. (LC/CAR/L.448)
- An assessment of mechanisms to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector in Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (LC/CAR/L.449)
- Economic survey of the Caribbean 2014: reduced downside risks and better prospects for a recovery (LC/CAR/L.450)
- Caribbean development report: exploring strategies for sustainable growth and development in Caribbean small island States (LC/CAR/L.451)
- An assessment of the performance of CARICOM extraregional trade agreements: an initial scoping exercise (LC/CAR/L.455/Rev.1)
- The Beijing Platform for Action: twenty years of implementation in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.457)
- Trade and development nexus: reflections on the performance of trade in goods under the CARIFORUM-European Union Partnership Agreement. A CARIFORUM perspective (LC/CAR/L.458)
- Development strategies for the information and communications technology sector in the Caribbean: a global perspective (LC/CAR/L.460)
- Caribbean synthesis review and appraisal report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (LC/CAR/L.470)
- The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda (LC/CAR/L.472)

- Towards a demand model for maritime passenger transportation in the Caribbean: a regional study for passenger ferry services (LC/CAR/L.477)
- Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons: twin imperatives for action (LC/CAR/L.481)
- Opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.482)
- Regional approaches to e-government initiatives in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.483)
- An assessment of big data for official statistics in the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities (LC/CAR/L.485)
- Dissemination of Caribbean census microdata to researchers: including an experiment in the anonymization of microdata for Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago (LC/CAR/L.486)
- Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2015: balancing economic recovering and high debt in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.487)
- Review of ECLAC damage and loss assessments in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/W.7)
- Assessment of strategies for linking the Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (LC/CAR/W.8)

Annex 2

**MEETINGS CONVENED BY THE SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Meeting	Venue and date	Participating members and associate members
Expert group meeting to consider the impact of the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement on CARIFORUM countries	Port of Spain, 16 January 2014	Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Meeting on linking the post-disaster needs assessment to the damage and loss assessment methodology	Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 26 February 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Dialogue session on the way forward to Samoa	Port of Spain, 14 April 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	Port of Spain, 15 April 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable	Kingston, 23-24 April 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, Curaçao and Guadeloupe
Twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	Kingston, 25 April 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Martinique
Informal preparatory meeting for the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States	Kingstown, 10-12 June 2014	Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Meeting on sustainable energy in the Caribbean: Reducing the carbon footprint in the Caribbean through the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable technologies: promoting energy efficiency in the transport sector	Castries, 25 July 2014	Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Expert group meeting to discuss assessment of the performance of CARICOM extraregional trade agreements	Port of Spain, 17 October 2014	Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean technical meeting: special session on Beijing+20 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago, 14-15 November 2014	Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Cayman Islands and Curaçao
Expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, 3 December 2014	Barbados, Dominican Republic, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands
Second expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, 12 March 2015	Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Turks and Caicos Islands

Meeting	Venue and date	Participating members and associate members
Expert group meeting on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean	Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 15 March 2015	Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Expert group meeting on regional approaches to e-government applications development in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, 17 March 2015	Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean technical meeting on proposals for sustainable development goals within the context of the post-2015 development agenda	Port of Spain, 27 March 2015	United Nations agencies, funds and programmes attended the meeting. Representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) also participated
Seventh meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	Castries, Saint Lucia 29 April 2015	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Expert group meeting to consider a demand model for maritime passenger transportation in the Caribbean	Port of Spain 21 May 2015	Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, and Montserrat. Regional organizations: Association of Caribbean States (ACS), OECS, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and CARICOM. The International Maritime Organization (IMO). The University of Trinidad and Tobago
Symposium on sustainable development goals for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda	Port of Spain 24-25 June 2015	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Martinique, Montserrat, and Sint Maarten
Seventeenth meeting of the of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	Port of Spain, 26 June 2015	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Cayman Islands, Martinique, Montserrat, and Sint Maarten
Expert group meeting to review draft of a study to develop a framework for Caribbean medium-term development	Port of Spain 6 July 2015	Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica
Expert group meeting to examine the potential for integrating big data within statistical data production in the Caribbean	Port of Spain 24 August 2015	Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago
Expert group meeting to examine the potential for expanding access to Caribbean census microdata for researchers	Port of Spain 23 November 2015	Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. University of Minnesota, United States of America
Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons	Roseau, Dominica 30 November- 1 December 2015	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Martinique

Annex 3

**SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS CONVENED BY THE SUBREGIONAL
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Title of seminar/workshop	Venue and date	Participating members and associate members
Workshop for the presentation of the ECLAC programme on energy efficiency indicators	Oranjestad, 26-28 February 2014	Aruba
Caribbean consultation: optimizing the benefits of trade and regional integration for the Caribbean	Lima, 5 May 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
Regional training workshop on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of the 2011 population and housing census	St. George's, 29 September to 10 October 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Grenada
Regional seminar on time-use surveys	Kingstown, 10-11 December 2014	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname
National Training Workshop on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of the 2011 census data	Port of Spain, 17-28 February 2015	Trinidad and Tobago
Training course on the disaster assessment methodology	Lima, 5-8 May 2015	Peru
Training course on the disaster assessment methodology	Cusco, Peru 16-19 June 2015	Peru
Informational webinar on the proposed eLAC 2018 digital agenda	Port of Spain 18 June 2015	Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
Training course on the disaster assessment methodology	San José, 3-5 August 2015	Costa Rica
Training course on the disaster assessment methodology	Port of Spain 5-7 October 2015	Trinidad and Tobago
Training course on the disaster assessment methodology	Moyobamba, Peru 14-16 October 2015 Piura, Peru 19-21 October 2015	Peru

Annex 4

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SUBREGIONAL
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Antigua and Barbuda	
29 September to 10 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided on the development of REDATAM (retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer) software applications for the dissemination of data from the country's recent national censuses.
22 October to 3 November 2014	Advice was provided on trade and economic policy formulation geared towards diversifying the economy, expanding exports and improving economic resilience. Key areas for future technical assistance interventions by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean were also identified.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality.
10-14 August 2015	Preliminary consultations were held with key government agencies and institutions and a wide range of private sector entities from the food industry, to tourism, construction, and logistics, to identify the specific causes of high prices. As part of the review the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division, staff members were interviewed and all work processes and systems were reviewed. The Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards and consumer advocacy groups linked to the work of the Division were also consulted, in order to determine how better collaboration could improve the Division's work.
Bahamas	
4-7 November 2014	Technical advice and support was provided, as requested. Data were collected and discussions were held on the country's economic performance and the challenges it faced in 2014 and the prospects for 2015.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality.
2-14 August 2015	The Bahamas Department of Statistics trade database framework was assessed, and Eurotrace software installed and training provided to Department staff.
Barbados	
11-14 May 2014	Economic stakeholders were interviewed and the information required for the <i>Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean</i> was sourced. Discussions were held on the state of the Barbados economy and the country's performance, policies and strategies for future growth.
6-12 July 2014	Training was delivered on the macroeconomic aspects of the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology and intersectoral linkages at the workshop on Post Disaster Needs Assessment.
29 September to 10 October 2014	Technical assistance provided on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of data from the country's recent national censuses.
8-13 November 2015	Technical support provided to key stakeholders on the national Medium-Term Growth and Development Strategy 2013-2020.
Belize	
29 October to 3 November 2014	Technical advice and support were provided, as requested. Data were collected and discussions were held on the country's economic performance and the challenges it faced in 2014 and the prospects for 2015.

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Dominica	
18 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the programme on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean entitled “Structural change for a sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality.
8 February 2015	A programme on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean was funded by GIZ, entitled “Structural change for a sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean”. A draft report on financing options for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in Dominica was presented to 12 energy stakeholders, who provided comments and feedback.
Grenada	
3 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the GIZ project on sustainable energy in the Caribbean.
29 September to 10 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of data from the country’s recent national censuses (with support from ECLAC headquarters).
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (with support from ECLAC headquarters).
Guyana	
29 October to 2 November 2014	Technical advice and support were provided, as requested, and information was collected for the <i>Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean</i> .
Jamaica	
20-28 April 2014	Information-gathering began for an assessment of the economic impact of praedial larceny in Jamaica.
1-10 June 2014	The assessment of the economic impact of praedial larceny in Jamaica was concluded.
October 2014	Technical advice was provided with respect to macroeconomic and sectoral policies, which included an assessment of economic and other sectoral forecasts for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality.
16-27 February 2015	Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Office on designing household income and expenditure survey.
1-9 September 2015	Technical support was provided to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica on designing an income and expenditure survey.
Saint Kitts and Nevis	
16-20 March 2015	A project was implemented to strengthen the technical capacity of public managers in selected Caribbean small island developing States to manage public finances. Interviews were conducted with the country focal point and other relevant stakeholders to develop a scoping study for Saint Kitts and Nevis.
10-14 August 2015	Interviews were conducted and information gathered to be used in the development of a national manufacturing strategy.

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Saint Lucia	
9-21 March 2014	Introductory training was delivered on the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology and the macroeconomic section of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment was completed.
2 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the GIZ project on sustainable energies in the Caribbean.
13-21 September 2014	Technical cooperation and assistance was provided to countries, upon request, on policies to promote environmental technologies, disaster preparedness and risk reduction. A street lighting policy was prepared.
9-12 November 2014	
13-17 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the programme on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean, entitled "Structural change for a sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean".
9-13 February 2015	
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality.
24-26 August 2015	Regional implementation meeting on access rights and sustainable development in the Caribbean region and the workshop on climate change, natural disasters and coastal vulnerability. Organized by ECLAC, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, UNEP and the World Resources Institute.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
9-22 February 2014	Introductory training was delivered on the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology and the macroeconomic section of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment was completed.
1 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the GIZ project on sustainable energy in the Caribbean.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (with support from ECLAC headquarters).
Suriname	
October 2014	Technical advice was given with respect to macroeconomic and sectoral policies, which included an assessment of economic and other sectoral forecasts for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (with support from ECLAC headquarters).
26-30 October 2015	Technical assistance was provided to the National Planning Bureau of Suriname on the 2016 economic planning and analysis processes. Meetings were also held with other agencies to gather information for the <i>Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean</i> , namely the Statistics Bureau, the Suriname Trade and Industry Association, the Investment and Development Corporation and the central bank.
Trinidad and Tobago	
16-28 February 2014	Technical assistance was provided to the Central Statistical Office and a national training workshop was conducted on REDATAM software.
Aruba	
26 February to 1 March 2014	Technical cooperation was provided on sustainable energy in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Martinique	
25-27 November 2014	Stakeholder consultations were convened on financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency as part of the GIZ project.
Turks and Caicos Islands	
6-12 October 2014	Baseline data were collected for the development of national population projections and a meeting was held with officials from the Strategic Policy and Planning Department.
2-5 February 2015	New population projections were presented to the staff of the Strategic Policy and Planning Department, who were given training on maintaining, updating and further developing the projections in the future.

Annex 5

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER DIVISIONS OF ECLAC

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Barbados	
4-8 November 2014	Meetings were held with Invest Barbados, the Financial Services Commission, Barbados Tourism Investment, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), the Caribbean Export Development Agency, Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, the Central Bank of Barbados and six different investors. These meetings have provided ample information about the situation concerning foreign direct investment (FDI) in Barbados and the policies related to it. As a result of meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management will have access to FDI data that was previously unavailable.
Belize	
4-7 November 2014	The objectives, expected results and the work plan of the project on public policy formulation for information management were presented and technical assistance activities were organized.
Cuba	
23-25 April 2014	Technical mission to provide assistance to the National Statistics Office (ONEI) of Cuba regarding national accounts.
11-15 May 2014	Interviews were held with government authorities of Cuba regarding economic development with a view to updating joint activities; views were exchanged on policies, projects and other issues in the region, and information was collected for the <i>Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014</i> and the <i>Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014</i> .
30 June to 10 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided to ONEI regarding the consumer price index.
1-5 July 2014	Technical cooperation services were provided in the areas of planning, budgeting and evaluation of policies, economic reforms and updating Cuba's economic model.
28 September to 4 October 2014	A technical mission was carried out to provide assistance to ONEI regarding prices and to discuss the project on strengthening statistical capacity.
25-29 October 2014	A meeting was held with Cuban authorities regarding possible areas for technical assistance.
26 October to 1 November 2014	Technical assistance was provided to Cuban officials on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of the 2012 census data.
4-8 November 2014	Meetings were held with representatives of the Government of Cuba on the subregion's economic development for the <i>Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014</i> .
23 November to 5 December 2014	Technical assistance was provided to ONEI on prices.
1-6 December 2014	Technical cooperation was provided to Cuban officials on time-use surveys.
18-28 January 2015	Classes were given on development paradigms and models in the twenty-first century and a workshop was held on decentralization. Both events were organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of ECLAC and the University of Havana.
27 March to 5 April 2015	Technical assistance was provided on price indicators.
27-30 April 2015	Workshop on the project to modernize the banking system.
3-9 May 2015	Lecture on strategic planning and policy development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
21-27 June 2015	Technical assistance was provided to ONEI on price indicators.
23-25 September 2015	Technical workshop which consisted of a series of presentations focused on the building of further knowledge of the Cuban participants and the encouragement of Cuban participants to think about the benefits and challenges of Foreign Direct Investment.
8-14 October 2015	Technical assistance was provided to ONEI on price indicators.

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Dominican Republic	
2-5 April 2014	Technical assistance was provided in the form of an assessment of the situation with regard to agricultural statistics and the current agricultural statistics system in the Dominican Republic. National focal points were identified and technical groups were set up to prepare development plans aimed at improving the generation and analysis of agricultural statistics.
15-17 May 2014	Classes were given on strengthening the national capacities of export sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean to meet the challenges of climate change.
24-27 June 2014	Technical cooperation was provided to countries and institutions, at their request, in relation to the formulation of public policies on gender mainstreaming and institution-building. The assistance was geared to government agencies and entities responsible for policies and programmes for women and other relevant sectoral agencies. A paper on women's economic empowerment was presented.
13-19 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided as part of the programme on strengthening statistical capacity.
3-9 August 2014	Technical assistance was provided in analysing national surveys on household income and expenditure.
27-30 August 2014	Technical assistance was provided in evaluating statistics and productivity calculation methodologies were discussed.
8-11 September 2014	Officials were trained in identifying, processing and analysing energy efficiency indicators.
9-12 September 2014	Efforts were made to facilitate the effective integration of developing countries into the global economy through aid-for-trade schemes.
12-17 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided in strengthening the institutional framework of social policies.
23-29 November 2014	Technical assistance was provided in evaluating the results of household surveys.
15-17 February 2015	Technical assistance was provided as part of the Mesoamerica Project.
2-7 March 2015	Technical assistance was provided as part of the project on social and economic impacts of climate change and the policy options available.
20-21 April 2015	Technical assistance was provided as part of the Mesoamerica Project.
17-20 May 2015	Meetings on climate change and green tax reforms were held with representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Environment and the Central Bank.
15-18 June 2015	Technical cooperation services were provided on social policy design, social programme implementation and the management of social programmes and institutions, as part of the Development Account project, Time for equality: strengthening the institutional framework of social policies.
12-19 July 2015	Technical assistance was provided on the consumer price index.
14-18 July 2015	Technical assistance was provided in connection with the GIZ project on structural change for sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
9-22 August 2015	The results of the continuous household survey were evaluated.
16-19 September 2015	Meetings were held with national experts on databases and geographic information systems (GIS) maps, as part of the project on rural and agricultural development, food security and information management policies.
1-8 November 2015	Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Office (ONE) on teenage pregnancy studies, including training for the Office's team of investigators on new theories and procedures.
30 November 2015- 5 December 2015	Technical assistance was provided on social policy design, social programme implementation and the management of social programmes and institutions, as part of the Development Account project, Time for equality: strengthening the institutional framework of social policies.
6-11 December 2015	Advisory services were provided to the Ministry of Health on climate sensitive-diseases in Central-America and the Dominican Republic.

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Grenada	
29 September to 10 October 2014	Technical assistance was provided on the development of REDATAM applications for the dissemination of data from the country's recent national censuses (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time-use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).
Haiti	
31 March to 5 April 2014	Technical assistance was provided and reports were presented on the social protection system in Haiti.
4-9 November 2014	Technical assistance was provided at the workshop on multidimensional child poverty (a joint project implemented by ECLAC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)).
13-17 December 2014	A technical seminar was held to discuss documents prepared by ECLAC consultants on financing and strategy for social protection in Haiti.
7-10 April 2015	A monitoring mission was undertaken as part of the social protection in Haiti project.
2-4 September 2015	The scope of a possible technical assistance programme on transport and infrastructure was determined.
27 September to 3 October 2015	Technical cooperation was provided to the Haitian Statistics Institute by ECLAC in conjunction with the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).
Jamaica	
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).
16-27 February 2015	Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Office in the design of national surveys on household income and expenditure.
17-21 August 2015	Technical assistance was provided on environmental accounting to raise awareness among stakeholders and to discuss possible implementation. A multi-stakeholder meeting was therefore held with representatives from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).
Saint Lucia	
30 June to 6 July 2014	Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Saint Lucia in the area of foreign direct investment.
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).

Dates	Member or associate member and description of assistance
Suriname	
9-12 December 2014	Training was provided to staff from gender bureaux and national statistical offices on the value of time use surveys, which were promoted for measuring all forms of work. Another aim of the training was to build greater statistical capacity in the compilation of gender statistics and development of indicators on gender for the formulation of sound policies that promote gender equality (in conjunction with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean).
Trinidad and Tobago	
20-24 January 2014	Training was provided to staff of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) on trade databases in order to support them in preparing an annual bulletin on foreign trade.
6-10 July 2014	Technical cooperation services were provided to the countries of the region, upon request, in relation to policymaking to promote foreign direct investment and subcontracting to small- and medium-sized enterprises by larger firms.
Curaçao	
22-29 March 2014 15-19 June 2014 30 August to 3 September 2014	Technical assistance was provided for the creation of a development and financial institution.