



Twenty-sixth session
Caribbean Development and
Cooperation Committee (CDCC)
Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 22 April 2016

Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.4148(CDCC.26/3)
19 February 2016
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019

**SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES
IN THE CARIBBEAN**

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEANPresentation

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of the global commitment to development, will pose a challenge to the countries of the Caribbean subregion as they continue to face a number of vulnerabilities. Their small, open, undiversified economies, hit by recession in major export markets, are striving to return to sustained economic growth following the global economic crisis. Low or declining growth, depressed domestic and international demand, and a lack of robust investment in tourism and related service industries have resulted in high levels of unemployment, particularly among women and young people.

Countries of the subregion also face mounting public debt and other severe fiscal challenges, with average debt-to-GDP ratios in the unsustainable range. For a few countries, these ratios exceed 100% of GDP, posing serious challenges to financial system stability and limiting their access to international finance. Such substantial debt burdens contribute to persistently high domestic interest rates, which constrain investment.

The high public debt and the attendant focus on fiscal consolidation have limited the capacity of Caribbean governments to maintain a full range of social services. This has raised concerns about erosion of the social fabric, and the ability to meet the growing needs of vulnerable groups. The Caribbean remains the subregion with the second highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world, and the rise in lifestyle and non-communicable diseases has increasingly become an urgent health and development issue. In addition, the reduction of significant levels of poverty and inequality remains a major challenge for Caribbean countries.

The small island and coastal States of the Caribbean continue to be challenged with adapting to climate change and sea level rise, as well as the ever increasing risks of exposure to extreme weather events, which have increased in intensity. In the light of these challenges, debt swaps for climate change adaptation and mitigation have been put forward as a way of freeing up public resources for addressing the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change.

The related issues of energy and food security remain prominent on the policy agenda, as the subregion seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on fossil fuel exploration and imports through the development of biofuels and other alternative energy technologies.

Caribbean States, therefore, continue to focus on a strategy aimed at building resilience. Such a strategy must rekindle investment and promote sustained growth and development, while pursuing debt reduction through debt relief and fiscal management. This will allow Caribbean countries to expand their capacity to meet the growing social and development needs of their people. Underlying this strategy is the need for progressive economic transformation, which implies moving away from economies based primarily on natural endowments and towards more knowledge-driven economies.

Such a transition will require much more targeted investment in human capital, as well as greater collaboration between the private and public sectors of the subregion to garner the requisite resources. This will also demand exploration of viable avenues for expansion of trade and investment with Latin America, even as the subregion seeks to strengthen the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and invest in human capacity through skills and entrepreneurship training, particularly for young people. Attention will also have to be devoted to accommodating important demographic trends, including the need to

provide broader social protection services for the ageing Caribbean populations. While there are challenges, there are also opportunities, which include strategies to benefit positively from migration by harnessing the skills and resources of the Caribbean diaspora. In addition, the creative industries can be promoted to benefit from opportunities under the European Union-Caribbean Economic Partnership Agreement. Policymakers have also reaffirmed their commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, and meeting the needs of persons with disabilities.

Further, building resilience will demand a continued commitment to developing a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented knowledge society, through the promotion of the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as critical enablers of sustainable development, particularly in small multi-island States. ICTs offer new solutions to development challenges, including fostering sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The effective use of ICTs in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services that are responsive to national needs and priorities requires greater efforts to narrow the digital and broadband divides, while taking into account considerations of gender and culture, and the impact on underrepresented groups, such as young people.

Efforts to respond effectively to emerging economic, social and demographic trends are hampered by the persistent lack of data. Policymakers acknowledge the need to strengthen infrastructure and expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly important issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons with disabilities and gender-based violence. Particular attention should be paid to the production and use of gender-disaggregated data.

Subregional and national action will continue to be framed by the significant global platforms which will guide and support policies for advancing sustainable development in small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, and an agenda for climate change adaptation. The key elements of these development platforms will be pursued in synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to ensuring that work under the subprogramme continues to support Caribbean policymakers in promoting sustainable growth and development for the countries of the subregion. ECLAC will also continue to engage, under the subprogramme, in actively supporting the sustainable development aspirations of the non-self-governing and other territories in the Caribbean that are associate members of the Commission.

The proposed activities seek to pursue the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme and to achieve the expected accomplishments during the biennium. The progress achieved will be measured by the indicators described below.

Logical framework of the subprogramme:

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the sustainable development process in the Caribbean in the economic, social and environmental dimensions, and enhance the subregion's cooperation with Latin America.

Expected accomplishments of the secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(1) Improved capacity of countries in the subregion to address economic, social and environmental development issues in an integrated manner.	(a) (i) Increased number of policies, programmes and measures in the areas of economic, social and environmental development formulated, adopted or updated by countries of the subregion informed by ECLAC analyses and recommendations. (ii) Increased number of government institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders acknowledging that they have benefited from ECLAC products and services to improve their work and better address economic, social and environmental development needs.
(2) Improved institutional capacity in countries of the subregion in the pursuit and achievement of the targets of the major subregional, regional and/or international agreements in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals.	(b) (i) Increased number of policies, programmes and measures adopted or updated to address the major subregional, regional and/or international agreements in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with ECLAC technical input, analyses and recommendations.
(3) Enhanced subregional dialogue, cooperation and collaboration in the Caribbean to articulate and formulate strategic responses to the Sustainable Development Goals and other economic, social and environmental development needs.	(c) (i) Increased number of Caribbean institutions and other stakeholders engaged in subregional dialogue and/or cooperation and collaboration mechanisms coordinated by ECLAC that advance the economic, social and environmental development of the countries of the subregion.

Strategy

The strategy is built on four pillars. First, implementation of the activities will occur within the context of coordination and collaboration with other divisions of ECLAC and the wider United Nations system. Second, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will, through alignment with the guidance provided by the Committee, and the identification of priority areas and development challenges, ensure the continued relevance of the work of the subregional headquarters to the needs of the subregion. Third, the activities will facilitate the active engagement of Caribbean countries in follow-up to the outcomes of global conferences, including the Sustainable Development Goals which underpin the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fourth, the response to the development needs of the countries served by the subprogramme will adopt a multidisciplinary approach, including: (i) promoting financing for development, sound fiscal management and market diversification, within the context of assimilating Caribbean economies into the global economy; (ii) broadening the monitoring mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway; (iii) facilitating wider application of ICT for development and knowledge management; (iv) enhancing the role of social development within the context of the broader sustainable development process; and (v) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries to support more effective evidence-based policymaking.

To this end, the subregional headquarters will undertake research and analysis of the emerging issues and challenges facing the Caribbean and work closely with Caribbean development partners, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and CARICOM-related institutions, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF) and the

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), and international development partners, including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union, to inform policymaking in Caribbean countries, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services. Ultimately, the visibility of the work and major achievements of the subregional headquarters will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme, including more active engagement of Caribbean countries.

External factors

The objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achievable based on the following assumptions:

(a) Confidence in the relationship between ECLAC and the key national stakeholders is maintained.

(b) Collaboration and cooperation are enhanced between regional and international organizations operating in the subregion, which are crucial to the overall success of the subprogramme.

Activities

Subject area 12.1: Caribbean development and cooperation

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Intergovernmental meetings

(i) One session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

(ii) One meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

Ad hoc expert group meetings

One meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Recurrent publications

One issue of the *Caribbean Development Report* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

(i) ECLAC Focus in the Caribbean for 2018 (four issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) ECLAC Focus in the Caribbean for 2019 (four issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(iii) ECLAC Newsletters on economic, environmental, knowledge management, social and statistical development issues for 2018 (12 issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(iv) ECLAC Newsletters on economic, environmental, knowledge management, social and statistical development issues for 2019 (12 issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

Subject area 12.2: Economic development and integration

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on debt sustainability, its impact on economic growth and the ability of the Caribbean to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (high correlation with expected accomplishments 2 and 3).

(ii) A meeting on upgrading and diversifying products and services in the tourism sector to increase its contribution to growth and development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

(iii) A meeting on trade financing and its impact on export competitiveness and the ability of Caribbean economies to take advantage of market access opportunities (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

2. Recurrent publications

(i) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2018* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2019* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2018* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2019* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on debt sustainability, its impact on economic growth and the ability of the Caribbean to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (high correlation with expected accomplishments 2 and 3).

(ii) A study on upgrading and diversifying products and services in the tourism sector to increase its contribution to growth and development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

(iii) A study on trade financing and its impact on export competitiveness and the ability of Caribbean economies to take advantage of market access opportunities (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

4. Other substantive activitiesBooklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

Policy brief on a selected area of economic development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on macroeconomic policies and regional integration (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

A training course on the use of TradeCAN and MAGIC to monitor trade agreements and trade performance (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

7. Intermediate activities

Contributions to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*; *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*; *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy*; and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* .

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: Knowledge management and ICT for development1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on selected issues relating to ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A meeting on strengthening the design and use of knowledge management tools in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on selected issues relating to ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on strengthening the design and use of knowledge management tools in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

(i) Updating and maintenance of the Caribbean Knowledge Repository (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Updating and maintenance of the Knowledge Society Toolkit (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

Policy brief on a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on ICT for development, information societies and knowledge economies (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Training on selected ICT for development and knowledge management issues in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

6. Intermediate activities

Provision of inputs for ECLAC databases on ICT and knowledge economy indicators, including integrated follow-up to the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.4: Social development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A meeting to examine selected issues on population and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Recurrent publications

A publication on selected Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study to examine selected issues on population and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

4. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

Policy brief on a selected area of social development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on gender equality and social and population development in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

A workshop on gender mainstreaming in the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1, 2 and 3).

7. Intermediate activities

(i) Inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

(ii) Contribution to the substantive servicing of selected activities of the Division for Gender Affairs.

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.5: Statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

The regular updating and maintenance of selected statistical indicator databases (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

Policy brief on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of statistics and statistical development in the subregion (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1, 2 and 3).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) A training course on the use of REDATAM for online dissemination of census and household survey data (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1, 2 and 3).

(ii) A workshop on planning for the 2020 round of censuses in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

(iii) A workshop on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

6. Intermediate activities

(i) Preparation of inputs for the following publications: *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*; *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*; *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy*; *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*; *Social Panorama of Latin America*; and *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

(ii) Preparation of inputs for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.6: Sustainable development and disaster risk management

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on qualitative and quantitative aspects of the status of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) A meeting on selected relevant issues related to sustainable development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A meeting on the state of implementation of disaster risk reduction measures in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on qualitative and quantitative aspects of status of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) A study on selected relevant issues related to sustainable development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on the state of implementation of disaster risk reduction measures in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

The regular updating and maintenance of the database on the economic, social and environmental costs of extreme natural disasters in the countries of the subregion (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

(i) Policy brief on a selected area of sustainable development or disaster risk management in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) Preparation of public education material and information on issues highlighted in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of environmental development and disaster-preparedness and risk reduction (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) A training course on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) A training course on disaster risks and resilience-building in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A workshop on the use of the updated ECLAC disaster assessment methodology (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

6. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that a project will be undertaken on a relevant issue related to sustainable development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).