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**Twenty-sixth session
Caribbean Development and
Cooperation Committee (CDCC)**

Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 22 April 2016

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Twenty-sixth session of the
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Basseterre, 22 April 2016

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

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A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee welcomed the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, and endorsed the creation of an inter-agency task force to elaborate the details of a debt swap proposal in resolution 93(XXVI), “Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean”.
2. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, including subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean, and expressed appreciation for the work carried out in the subregion during the 2014-2015 biennium in resolution 95(XXVI), “Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean”.
3. The Committee took note of the preparations under way for the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016.
4. The Committee agreed that the eighteenth meeting of its Monitoring Committee would be held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain in 2017. The exact date would be determined in consultation with the Chair.
5. In addition to resolutions 93(XXVI) and 95(XXVI) mentioned above, the Committee adopted resolution 91(XXVI), “Enhancing support for capacity-building in disaster assessment and resilience-building strategies in the Caribbean”; resolution 92(XXVI), “Promoting awareness of ageing in the Caribbean”; resolution 94(XXVI), “Ensuring synergy in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in the Caribbean subregion”; and resolution 96(XXVI), “Welcome of Sint Maarten as a member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee”.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the session

6. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-sixth session in Basseterre on 22 April 2016.

Attendance¹

7. The twenty-sixth session was attended by the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
8. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of ECLAC: Argentina and France.

¹ See annex 3 for a full list of participants.

9. Sint Maarten, an associate member of ECLAC, was also represented.

10. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Bank.

11. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commonwealth Secretariat, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Election of officers

12. The delegations elected to preside over the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-sixth session were as follows:

Chair: Saint Kitts and Nevis

Vice-chairs: Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands and Dominican Republic

Rapporteur: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Adoption of the agenda

13. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. The debt overhang: balancing adjustment with sustainable development in the Caribbean
3. Preparing for an ageing population in the Caribbean
4. Matters relating to the programme of work
5. Thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
6. Welcome of new associate members of ECLAC to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
7. Consideration and adoption of resolutions
8. Date and venue of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
9. Other matters
10. Closure of the session

Documentation

14. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Committee at its twenty-sixth session is provided in annex 2.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

15. At the opening of the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, statements were made by Diane Quarless, Chief of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean; Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Sheila Sealy Monteith, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; and Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

16. The Chief of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed delegations to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee and thanked them for their contributions to the discussions on the document entitled *Proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps: A strategy for growth and economic transformation of Caribbean economies*, presented by ECLAC at the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable. She underscored the Commission's commitment to taking the proposal forward through the establishment of a task force that would work to reach common agreement on the essential features of the mechanism. She expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary and staff from ECLAC headquarters in Santiago for their support, which was a clear signal of the level of importance that ECLAC attached to the work of the Committee.

17. In his introductory remarks, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the rich discussions that had been held at the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable on the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal for the subregion, which sought to tackle two major challenges for Caribbean countries. Other critical development challenges to be overcome if the countries of the Caribbean were to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals included the need to correct balance-of-payments deficits, promote structural change in support of productive economies, create decent jobs to boost employment, push for higher productivity to achieve higher incomes and better living standards, address vulnerability and tackle the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, which placed demands on health systems. Furthermore, he outlined concerns regarding the ageing of the population, high youth unemployment and the migration of skilled labour. Notwithstanding those challenges, he affirmed that the Caribbean must identify paths that emphasized sustainable growth. In that regard, he recognized a number of possible areas in which the subregion—with the requisite political will—could demonstrate clear competitive advantages, such as agriculture, tourism, mining, creative industries and green energy initiatives with a focus on value added. Visionary leadership and the resilience of the people could lead to considerable economic benefits in those areas. He concluded by extending an invitation to attend the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, which would be held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016.

18. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the outgoing Chair, reflected on Jamaica's partnership with the Committee in advancing the work of small island developing States (SIDS) in the multilateral framework over the past two years, noting in particular the collaborative efforts to promote the concerns of Caribbean

SIDS at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. She thanked ECLAC for its support in preparing the Caribbean's negotiating position in such frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. With respect to the ECLAC proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps, she indicated the interest of Jamaica in furthering the development of that work through the proposed task force.

19. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis welcomed the successful discussions that had been held at the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which had set the stage for deeper reflection on the issue of debt overhang in the Caribbean. He pointed out that Saint Kitts and Nevis had improved its debt-to-GDP ratio from 185% of GDP five years ago to the current level of 65% of GDP, and was on track to achieve 60% by the end of 2016. He observed, however, that such an achievement could be sustained only with the application of strong fiscal discipline. He emphasized the importance of considering vulnerability when evaluating access to concessional grants and loans for developing countries.

The debt overhang: balancing adjustment with sustainable development in the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

20. The Chair said that the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable had provided a forum for a rich and timely exchange of ideas on the major challenges facing the Caribbean, including its high debt burden, low growth and the structural transformation needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda summarized the main elements of the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the subsequent discussions. He underlined the key issues raised and the support received from individual panellists, delegations and other participants. He then summarized the discussions on pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals within existing debt constraints. He added that the use of any new-found fiscal space to borrow for consumption rather than for capital investment would lead to further setbacks. He highlighted the threat to correspondent banking posed by the de-risking process being undertaken by major United States banks. He suggested that consideration should be given to lobbying the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat for much needed support in addressing the issue.

22. In her presentation on a strategic approach towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean, the Chief of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean focused on the social impact of high debt the Caribbean, while also emphasizing the continuing challenge that the debt overhang presented to economic growth and well-being. She highlighted issues that had undermined sustainable development in the Caribbean, such as: low productivity, declining competitiveness and anaemic growth; public debt and the associated fiscal consequences; high unemployment and poverty; prevalent crime and violence; economic, social, environmental vulnerability; and weak governance. She outlined a cross-cutting strategy called MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support), designed by the United Nations Development Group, which would be employed by ECLAC to assist member and associate member States in designing frameworks for monitoring and measuring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level. In that connection, she underscored that society as a whole should be included in the development process.

23. Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals would entail eight implementation areas, including raising public awareness, applying multi-stakeholder approaches, and incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into national, subnational and local plans. Public awareness should be raised through workshops, webinars, symposiums, public information campaigns and by leveraging other opportunities through Government- and United Nations-sponsored meetings to sensitize governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. She highlighted the essential elements of each node of the strategy and stressed the importance of monitoring, reporting and accounting, which involved identifying the indicators that best represented the development path that the Caribbean should follow and sharing data and results. ECLAC would convene a meeting later in 2016 to consider national and regional sustainable development priorities and to examine the means of implementation. She stressed the need for a multi-agency task force to support the design and implementation of a multidisciplinary monitoring and reporting framework, which would be critical for efficient and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. In the discussions that followed, one of the key issues raised was concern regarding the threat to offshore and correspondent banking services. The de-risking process and fallout from the Panama Papers leak presented a major threat to the financial services sector in the Caribbean, the second growth pillar for many tourism-based economies. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that care should be taken not to confuse offshore banking with correspondent banking, as the former did not affect all member States equally, whereas the latter did.

25. The representative of Jamaica pointed to her country's debt-to-GDP ratio of 129% and the fiscal sacrifices already made. The proposal under discussion offered an opportunity for countries like Jamaica to undertake national efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goals and the debt issue simultaneously. South-South and triangular cooperation continued to be important, as was the need to advocate the reversal of middle-income categorization and greater access to development financing. The representative of the Dominican Republic welcomed the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal and emphasized that, despite some recent economic success, her country had limited fiscal space and its middle-income status posed some challenges in accessing financing.

26. The representative of Barbados proposed the development of a regional strategic plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing issues such as productivity and competitiveness, and drew attention to financing windows such as the Green Climate Fund. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis said that a broad-based, collaborative approach was needed to avoid duplication of effort. He also noted that efforts to reduce the debt burden to ensure a sustainable development path should include a financing strategy that engaged all financing agencies simultaneously. Programmes were needed to sensitize governments and communities to the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to the adoption of best practices for their implementation.

27. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda indicated that his country was completing a medium-term development plan and requested ECLAC assistance on data collection, which had been proving a challenge.

28. With respect to the Goals, the representative of Suriname said that the Government had recently introduced an intersectoral Health in All Policies approach (with support of PAHO/WHO) to tackle the burden of disease by addressing the social determinants of health inequity. She underscored the country's vulnerability to climate change effects, given that most of its population and productive sectors were in low-lying coastal areas.

Preparing for an ageing population in the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

29. The Committee began its consideration of agenda item 3 with a video presentation entitled “Ageing in the Caribbean”. The presentation noted that the population cohort of persons aged 65 years and over in the Caribbean would double over the next 25 years, and underscored the risks faced by older persons, which included loss of income, ill-health, disability, loss of independence, loneliness, abuse and neglect. In order to respond adequately to those challenges, pension systems would need to be strengthened to improve coverage and benefits. Poverty among older citizens was identified as a contributing factor to ill-health, since older persons living in poverty were often obliged to choose between food and medication. An increase in non-communicable diseases was also anticipated, bringing with it a concomitant economic burden. Recommendations were therefore made to promote the access of older persons to adequate pension income, improved health care and lifelong learning opportunities, and to strengthen social care services and legislation to address elder abuse.

30. The Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Family Matters, Persons with Disabilities and Youth of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said that one of the major achievements of the twenty-first century had been the tremendous increase in life expectancy. That transition has resulted in an increase in the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over in the total population. The key elements of current policies in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were the provision of old-age pensions, elderly assistance age benefits, and non-contributory assistance pensions. Other social programmes for the elderly included a needs-based social welfare programme, geriatric golden year centres, and subsidies for water, utilities, medication and medical consultations.

31. He commended ECLAC on its significant efforts to bring the issue of ageing to the fore and encouraged delegations to work towards the well-being of the ageing population. He made several recommendations for consideration by the subregion in enhancing care for older persons, including legislative reform, particularly with respect to preventing crime against older persons; social, cultural and education programmes; the establishment of national councils on ageing; creating a register of older persons across the Caribbean; and linking retirement age to life expectancy.

32. A number of representatives commended ECLAC for its work on promoting a more careful consideration of the issue of ageing in the Caribbean, and endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. They outlined their countries’ efforts to address the needs of their ageing populations, which included the provision of pensions and subsidies for utilities. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that the video presentation contained a powerful message and suggested that it could be broadcast widely in the countries of the Caribbean to raise awareness on issues relating to ageing among the wider population. He also drew attention to the potential contribution of older persons through knowledge-sharing and the mentoring of younger persons.

33. The representative of Guyana offered a unique perspective by examining the challenges that sustaining older populations posed to a youthful population. He also pointed to increased financial difficulties arising from the erosion in the value of pensions due to exchange rate depreciation and attendant inflation in recent decades. The representative of ILO recommended instituting microinsurance schemes for young populations, as well as the portability of pensions as strategies to address the challenges of population ageing.

Matters relating to the programme of work (agenda item 4)

34. The Chief of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented the development areas of focus for the 2014-2015 biennium, highlighting work done to support subregional development in the areas of global advocacy, regional initiatives and training, technical assistance, research and analysis and outreach. ECLAC had facilitated the effective participation of the Caribbean subregion in a number of global processes, including the 20-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Resilience-building with respect to natural disasters had been a key area and a disaster assessment team leader had been relocated to the subregional headquarters. A focal point for ECLAC associate members had been designated and attention was being given to learning more about their unique political and legal personality in order to better respond to their development needs. She highlighted the continuing work on disabilities, including such important areas as definitions, legislation and data collection. Capacity-building efforts undertaken during the biennium 2014-2015 included training on the use of the Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) software, on the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology and mitigating the impacts of disasters, and on conducting time-use surveys to measure the value of paid and unpaid work.

35. In response to specific requests by the member and associate member States during the biennium, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean had worked on topics ranging from competitive pricing in Antigua and Barbuda to praedial larceny in Jamaica. At the request of CARICOM, ECLAC had undertaken a comprehensive study on progress in implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement on trade and economic development between the CARIFORUM countries and the European Union. Other areas of investigation had included the potential impact of new digital and mobile currency technology in the Caribbean, topics relating to ageing and mechanisms for improving energy efficiency in the transport sector. A Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit had been established at subregional headquarters, which synthesized larger research initiatives and published information on a range of platforms, including social media. Looking forward, she highlighted work to be carried out on the 2020 round of censuses, strengthening statistical capacity and building the creative industries. In those endeavours, ECLAC anticipated renewed collaboration with partners such as ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

36. Several representatives commended ECLAC on its work in the Caribbean. The representative of Jamaica, supported by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, anticipated that the Commission would be given a mandate to advance the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, to be held in Mexico City, and therefore suggested that should be reflected in the work programme. The representative of Barbados requested that ECLAC publications be disseminated more widely to ensure they reached a broader audience in ministries and agencies.

37. The representative of UNFPA mentioned a workshop on demographic analysis methods and population projections that was being provided in Montego Bay, Jamaica, led by experts from the United States Census Bureau and involving participants from 16 Caribbean countries.

38. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago referred to the resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and suggested that ECLAC should give consideration to the issue in the Caribbean, with a view to promoting that approach to human rights in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

39. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, which should incorporate work to advance the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal, as agreed, and took note of the report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

Thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
(agenda item 5)

40. A representative of the secretariat provided information on the organization of work, key messages and objectives of the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, to be held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee, would attend to present the report of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee, while the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda had been invited to participate on one of the high-level panels.

Welcome of new associate members of ECLAC to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (agenda item 6)

41. The Chair said that Sint Maarten had been granted associate membership of ECLAC by virtue of resolution 683(XXXV), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima in May 2014, and was now being welcomed as a member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

42. The Minister of Finance of Sint Maarten thanked ECLAC and the Committee for the warm welcome, and noted the value which his country placed on the opportunity to participate. He emphasized that Sint Maarten, as a full sovereign State in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, could now shoulder its development challenges fully. He noted the importance of that in the Caribbean context since, as an island State, Sint Maarten was equally affected by the development challenges of SIDS. He acknowledged the valuable work of ECLAC and the opportunity for knowledge-sharing.

43. The representative of the British Virgin Islands congratulated Sint Maarten on its membership of the Committee and celebrated the broader role of associate members of ECLAC in the work of the Committee. He commended ECLAC and urged the Commission to play an enhanced role in promoting the concerns of associate members in the United Nations system.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 7)

44. The members represented at the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee adopted the six resolutions contained in annex 1.

Date and venue of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (agenda item 8)

45. It was agreed that the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be held at ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain in 2017, with the exact date to be determined in consultation with the Chair.

Other matters (agenda item 9)

46. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in his capacity as Rapporteur, provided a summary of the discussions of the twenty-sixth session.

Closure of the session (agenda item 10)

47. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Chair and the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the warmth of their hospitality and the courtesies extended, as well as their logistical support for the meeting. He spoke of three major international problems that must be incorporated into development planning: long-term growth stagnation; an increase in inequality; and climate change. He highlighted the importance of the new ideas presented at ECLAC meetings, which could be used by countries in their development plans.

48. The Chair thanked all representatives for their participation and active involvement in the meeting, and the early support for the leadership of Saint Kitts and Nevis. He thanked the team from ECLAC and his own team for their contribution to the success of the meeting and declared the twenty-sixth session of the Committee closed.

Annex 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

91(XXVI) ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING STRATEGIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming its resolutions 58(XIX) of 2002, 66(XXI) of 2006 and 81(XXV) of 2014 in support of efforts in disasters and in the training of national teams to conduct disaster assessments with national human resources,

Recalling that the Barbados Programme of Action of 1994 affirmed that “small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to natural as well as environmental disasters and have a limited capacity to respond to and recover from such disasters”,¹

Recalling also the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway adopted at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which recognizes the “critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters”,²

Bearing in mind that Caribbean small island developing States are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including drought, coastal erosion and sea level rise,

Noting that research by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has demonstrated that a single disaster, such as a major hurricane, can set back the development process by as much as a decade in Caribbean small island developing States,³

Recognizing that the methodology developed by the Commission for assessing disasters and estimating their costs constitutes an essential tool for understanding risks and gauging country needs that can be used to shape a credible appeal for donor assistance in recovery and reconstruction,

Emphasizing that implementing a disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategy is a cost-effective investment towards preventing future damage and losses,

¹ United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994* (A/CONF.167/9), 1994, p. 4, III.1.

² General Assembly resolution 69/15, para. 51.

³ A. Kambon, “Caribbean small States, vulnerability and development” *Caribbean Development Report*, vol. 1, para. 3, Port of Spain, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, 2009.

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁴ seeks to achieve significant reduction in disaster risk and loss of life, livelihoods and well-being, with emphasis on specific challenges faced by small island developing States, by promoting better understanding of and investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience-building and strengthening disaster risk governance, as well as enhancing disaster preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Underscoring that multisectoral and multihazard disaster risk management contributes to achieving sustainable development and protects social, economic and environmental gains,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to continue to provide assistance to member States with respect to mainstreaming disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction initiatives in their development plans;
2. *Underscores* the need to give greater attention to risk reduction, preparedness and resilience-building in the Caribbean to ensure that subprogramme 13 on subregional activities in the Caribbean can respond more effectively to the specific needs of small island developing States in the subregion, particularly in the context of climate change;
3. *Calls for* expanded risk analysis and disaster assessment training activities in Caribbean member States so as to increase their capacity to gather baseline information and estimate the costs associated with disasters.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/283.

92(XXVI) PROMOTING AWARENESS OF AGEING IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, which reaffirmed the Political Declaration¹ and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,² recognizing the need to achieve the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons,

Recalling also the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in May 2012, in which member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed support for an international convention on the rights of older persons, and undertook to strengthen actions designed to increase the protection of the rights of older persons at the national level,

Highlighting the importance of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, adopted on 15 June 2015 at the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States,

Reaffirming resolution 2(II) adopted by the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean at its second session, held in October 2015,

Recognizing that these international agreements have provided the impetus for the development of national policies and programmes on behalf of older persons,

Acknowledging that significant gaps remain between policy and practice given the limited institutional, human and financial support ascribed to the needs of older persons,

Bearing in mind that between 2015 and 2035 the proportion of persons aged over 60 years in the Caribbean will increase from 14 per cent to 22 per cent of the population,³

Considering that there is need to address healthy ageing in the Caribbean, given the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, of which population ageing is a major driver,

Concerned that pension, health and social care systems in the Caribbean are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of a rapidly ageing population,

1. *Welcomes* the continued effort of the secretariat of the Commission, in particular its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to provide an opportunity for ongoing dialogue on the issues of ageing, and to support its members in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter;

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons, held in Dominica in December 2015;

¹ United Nations, *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002*, chap.1, resolution 1, annex I.

² Ibid., annex II.

³ United Nations, “World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision” [DVD edition], New York, Population Division, 2015.

3. *Invites* member countries to identify priority areas for implementation of these conclusions and recommendations, including empowering older persons, promoting their welfare in respect of economic, social and health related issues and raising awareness of ageing issues;

4. *Encourages* member countries to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes to promote the welfare of older persons, and to consider developing their capacity to meet the needs of ageing populations by strengthening institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and training personnel in the field of ageing;

5. *Calls upon* member countries to actively participate in the third cycle of the regional review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including the second follow-up meeting of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago in November 2016, and the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2017;

6. *Resolves* to adequately address the issue of ageing through ongoing dialogue in conjunction with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

93(XXVI) ADVANCING A DEBT RELIEF INITIATIVE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which adopted a transformative, people-centred set of Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling also the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹ which affirms the global commitment to address the challenge of financing sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,

*Welcoming the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030² in March 2015, which highlights the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction into long-term development planning, and the Paris Agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015 which, *inter alia*, highlights the importance of building resilience and adapting to climate change for the achievement of sustainable development,*

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to Caribbean States and that considerable financial and other resources are required to address this challenge,

Welcoming the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session, in particular its decision 52 that financial resources provided to developing country parties should enhance the implementation of their policies, strategies, regulations and action plans and their climate change actions with respect to both mitigation and adaptation,³

Highlighting the call made in the Paris Agreement⁴ for developed country parties to provide financial resources to assist developing country parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention,

Noting that the unsustainably high debt burden in the Caribbean was the result of a series of negative external shocks compounded by structural weaknesses, including vulnerability to natural disasters and the impact of climate change on member States and associate members of the Commission,

Noting also that high debt service costs in the Caribbean represent a significant outflow of financial resources, which presents a very real challenge to countries’ efforts to implement the new Sustainable Development Goals,

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/313.

² General Assembly resolution 69/283.

³ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1), 2016.

⁴ Article 9, para. 1.

Considering that the limited fiscal space caused by the debt overhang has made it difficult to employ countercyclical measures to promote economic recovery,

Concerned that Caribbean countries have had limited access to concessional external financing because of their classification as middle-income countries,

Further concerned that overcoming the debt challenge without debt relief will be very difficult in light of the prospects for low growth in the medium term,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Commission to explore options for debt relief for heavily indebted countries in the Caribbean;
2. *Expresses appreciation* for the work of the secretariat in pursuing a solution that not only addresses the debt overhang but also presents an opportunity to achieve sustainable development and climate change adaptation through investment in green industries and strategies aimed at resilience-building;
3. *Encourages* the Commission to further explore a menu approach to debt relief initiatives for the Caribbean in order to respond to the diverse circumstances of individual member States and associate members;
4. *Requests* the Commission to support the creation of an inter-agency task force to elaborate the details of a proposed debt swap mechanism.

94(XXVI) ENSURING SYNERGY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION (SAMOA) PATHWAY IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which adopted a transformative, people-centred set of Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, which endorsed the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,²

Bearing in mind its resolutions 65(XXI) adopted at its twenty-first session in 2006,³ 71(XXII) adopted at its twenty-second session in 2008,⁴ and 74(XXIII) adopted at its twenty-third session in 2010,⁵ concerning the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, its Technical Advisory Committee and their role in supporting implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States,

Recalling the fifth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held in Bogota on 5 March 2013, which sought to revitalize the role of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and to strengthen coordination and oversight in this regard,

Acknowledging the need to enhance regional coordination in support of the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the small island developing States of the Caribbean by strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and building partnerships,

1. Resolves to encourage its member States to make every effort to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in their national development plans;

2. Reaffirms its commitment to fully operationalize the Regional Coordinating Mechanism in the Caribbean, with a view to monitoring and supporting progress in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

¹ United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994* (A/CONF.167/9), 1994, annex II.

² United Nations, *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005*, annex I.

³ LC/CAR/L.086.

⁴ LC/CAR/L.196/Rev.1.

⁵ LC/CAR/L.257.

3. *Calls once again upon* its member States, in this regard, to make the national focal point mechanism of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism fully functional;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community, to provide the institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway at the national and regional levels;

5. *Encourages* more active exploration and pursuit of partnerships among Caribbean small island developing States and between them and other partners through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

6. *Also encourages* the development of a strategy for the mobilization of resources in support of the work of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism.

**95(XXVI) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recalling also resolution 29(XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55(XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

Recalling further resolution 75(XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

Bearing in mind resolution 79(XXIV) of 2012 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the recommendations of the second phase of the in-depth evaluation on strengthening the role of the Commission in the Caribbean subregion, and requested the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the continued implementation of the recommendations and report its findings to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-fifth session,

Bearing in mind also resolution 85(XXV) of 2014 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, in which it expressed its support for the request to ensure greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account the special development challenges of countries in the Caribbean subregion, which are related to their small size, open, narrow and undiversified economies, fragile ecosystems, and multiple inherent vulnerabilities,

1. *Takes note of the Report of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its seventeenth meeting held in Port of Spain on 26 June 2015;¹*

2. *Expresses appreciation for the work carried out under subprogramme 13 on subregional activities in the Caribbean during the 2014-2015 biennium, and particularly for the results achieved and impact derived from its implementation;*

¹ LC/CAR/L.469.

3. *Endorses* the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean,² and requests the Commission to adopt it subject to the outcomes of the deliberations on that occasion;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission, including a study to identify their current development challenges and priorities;

5. *Requests* the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the overall programme of work and the continued inclusion of the Caribbean associate members of the Commission in the work carried out under subprogramme 13, and to report on progress in this regard to the Committee at its twenty-seventh session.

² LC/L.4148(CDCC.26/3).

**96(XXVI) WELCOME OF SINT MAARTEN AS A MEMBER OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples of the Caribbean be strengthened,

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which in its Article 5 stipulates that, *inter alia*, “membership of the CDCC may be acquired by countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean that become members and associate members of ECLAC, by transmission to the Secretariat of a written indication of interest”,

Aware that Sint Maarten was granted associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean by virtue of resolution 683(XXXV), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima, from 5 to 9 May 2014,

Noting correspondence dated 18 March 2016, conveying the interest of the Government of Sint Maarten in participating as a member of the Committee,

Taking into account United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/96 of 9 December 2015 which, *inter alia*, requests the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories,

Welcomes Sint Maarten as a member of the Committee.

Annex 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LC/L.4145(CDCC/26/1)/Rev.1	Provisional agenda
LC/L.4146(CDCC/26/2)/Rev.2	Annotated provisional agenda Preliminary programme
LC/CAR/L.490	Report of the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable
LC/CAR/L.492	ECLAC proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps: a strategy for growth and economic transformation of Caribbean economies
LC/CAR/L.488	Report of the Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons
LC/CAR/L.489	Ageing in the Caribbean: implications of a changing population
LC/L.4148(CDCC/26/3)	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019
LC/L.4149	Programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017
LC/L.4150	Implementation of subprogramme 13 of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015

Annex 3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representative:

- Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration

Delegation member:

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

ARGENTINARepresentative:

- H.E. Ariel Fernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina in Jamaica

BAHAMASRepresentative:

- Carl Oliver, Deputy Director, Economic Planning, Ministry of Finance

BARBADOSRepresentative:

- Patrick McCaskie, Director, Research and Planning Unit, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

BELIZERepresentative:

- Duane Belisle, Director, Policy and Planning Unit, Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum

CUBARepresentative:

- H.E. Hugo Ruiz Cabrera, Ambassador of Cuba in Saint Kitts and Nevis

DOMINICA

Representative:

- Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Planning and Chief Personnel Officer, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representative:

- Karina Manon, Director of Economic Affairs and Integration in the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Delegation members:

- Soraya Asunción, International Relations Coordinator, Public Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance
- Ivan Ogando Lora, Official in Charge of Commercial Affairs and Integration in the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FRANCE

Representative:

- Julien Defrance, Regional Economic Adviser, Embassy of France in Panama

Delegation members:

- Louis Flemming, Official in Charge of Caribbean Corporation, International Cooperation Office, Overseas Community of Saint-Martin
- Alex Richards, Director of European affairs, Cabinet of the President, International Cooperation Office, Overseas Community of Saint-Martin

GRENADA

Representative:

- Mike Sylvester, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Energy, Economic Development Planning and Cooperatives

GUYANA

Representative:

- Hon. Carl Greenidge, Second Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Delegation members:

- Hector Butts, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Teandra McKay, Foreign Service Officer, Department of Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

JAMAICA

Representative:

- H.E. Sheila Sealy Monteith, Ambassador/Under-Secretary, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Delegation member:

- H.E. David Prendergast, High Commissioner for Jamaica in Trinidad and Tobago

SAINT KITTS AND NEVISRepresentative:

- Hon. Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation

Delegation members:

- Mentrice Arthurton, Statistician, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Nevis Island Administration
- Kaye Bass, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Samuel Berridge, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Joan Browne, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nevis Island Administration
- Anselm Caines, Director, Department of Sustainable Human Development, Ministry of Social Development, Nevis Island Administration
- Celia Christopher, Director Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Services Community Development and Gender Affairs
- Atasha DeSuza, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Abo Elliott, Debt Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Beverly Harris, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Bjorn Hazel, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Lorna Hunkins, Special Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Michael Penny, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation
- Lavern Queeley, Director of Economic Affairs and Public Sector Investment Planning, Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Rianne Wiltshire, Statistician, Statistics and Economic Planning, Ministry of Finance, Nevis Island Administration

SAINT LUCIARepresentative:

- Julian Dubois, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation

Delegation member:

- Embert St. Juste, Director, Research and Policy, Ministry of Finance

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINESRepresentative:

- Hon. Frederick Stephenson, Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Family Matters, Persons with Disabilities and Youth

SURINAMEDelegation members:

- Cindy Eersel, Payment Manager, Debt Management Office
- Jacqueline Warso, United Nations Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division International Development Cooperation

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative:

- H. E. Dennis Francis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Director for Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

B. Associate members of ECLAC

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Representative:

- Benito Wheatley, Director, British Virgin Islands London Office, British Virgin Islands Government

CURAÇAO

Delegation members:

- Arelys Alves-Meulens, Policy Adviser, Directorate of Foreign Relations
- Partap Kanhai, Policy Adviser, Ministry of Finance
- Eugene Martis, Policy Adviser, Ministry of Finance

MONTSERRAT

Representative:

- Cynthia Farrell, Trade and Policy Officer, Office of the Premier

SINT MAARTEN

Representative:

- Hon. Richard Gibson, Minister of Finance

Delegation member:

- Khalilah Peters, Head of the Department of Foreign Relations

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Representative:

- Hon. Ricardo Don Hue Gardiner, Minister of Border Control and Employment

Delegation member:

- Cynara John, Head of Secretariat, Ministry of Border Control and Employment

C. United Nations bodies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Alison Drayton, Senior Adviser, UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Headquarters
- Stephen O’Malley, UNDP Resident Representative in Barbados

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Sheila Roseau, Director, UNFPA subregional office for the Caribbean

D. Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Deep Ford, Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation, ILO subregional office for the Caribbean

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

- Jessie Schutt-Aine, Subregional Programme Coordinator, Caribbean

World Bank

- Francisco Galrao Carneiro, Lead Economist and Program Leader, Caribbean Country Management Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean Region

E. Intergovernmental organizations

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Evelyn Wayne, Director, Economic Policy and Development

Commonwealth Secretariat

- Reginald Darius, Director of Economic Policy

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

- Rohan Stowe, Deputy Director, Governor’s Immediate Office

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- Allister Mounsey, Macroeconomist in the Economic Affairs Division

F. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary
- Daniel Titelman, Chief, Economic Development Division
- Jimena Arias Feijoó, Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Chief
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Chief
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Sheldon Mc Lean, Coordinator, Economic Development Unit
- Johann Brathwaite, Programme Officer, Programme Support Unit
- Michael Hendrickson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Willard Phillips, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Alexander Voccia, Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Dale Alexander, Computer Information Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Sita Inglefield, Personal Assistant to the Chief
- Machel Pantin, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Nyasha Skerrette, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne, Staff Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Ana Fernández, Staff Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Tessa Too-Kong, Consultant