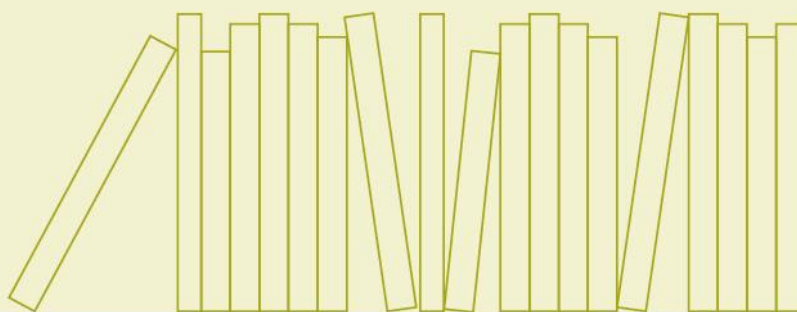


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Report of the Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning



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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming
the Sustainable Development Goals
in national development planning
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Kingston, Jamaica

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**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM ON
MAINSTREAMING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) convened a three-day symposium to deliberate on a coordinated approach to planning, implementation, and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean. The symposium was held from 14 to 16 February, 2017, in Kingston, Jamaica.

2. Attendance

2. The symposium brought together senior government officials from the national machineries with responsibility for planning, sustainable development and foreign affairs, as well as directors of national statistical offices, statisticians, academics, and representatives of regional and international organisations, including a development bank. The following ECLAC Member States were represented: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat, Sint Maarten, Unites States Virgin Islands, associate members of ECLAC, were also represented at the Symposium. The governments of France, Germany and South Africa attended as observers. The Office of the President of the seventy-first sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and the following subregional organizations, as well as agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations Development system also participated: UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNAIDS, FAO, UNESCO, PAHO/WHO, ITU, UPU, IOM, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and Caribbean Postal Union (CPU).

3. Agenda

1. Welcome remarks
2. Plenary sessions
3. Closing remarks

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome remarks

3. The representative of the Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, welcomed participants to the Symposium and her country, and expressed her appreciation to ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for organising the event. She noted that ECLAC had been engaged with the issue of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since its inception, and the Symposium provided the region with a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences on the implementation, monitoring and measurement of progress of the 17 SDGs. The Symposium, therefore, was especially important, given the need to ensure that national efforts to attain the SDGs were aligned with other international development strategies, in particular the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

4. During the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Caribbean subregion made measurable progress, particularly in improving maternal mortality rates and universal primary education.

However, major challenges persisted for which the SDGs, with their universal application, were expected to address. In particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development mandated that all countries take steps to ensure that their developmental imperatives are in line with the sustainable use of the planet's resources, and that people are placed at the centre of the development process. Designed to be fundamentally transformative, the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda address every aspect of Caribbean life. Jamaica, through its national development planning framework, 'Vision 2030 Jamaica,' which was formulated and promulgated before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, already integrated the important concepts of inclusivity and 'leaving no one behind', in order to secure a future for the country that benefitted all citizens.

5. The representative of Jamaica noted that several countries of the subregion had yet to complete their own development plans. In that regard, a critical objective of the Symposium was facilitating capacity building for countries to enable the closing of gaps between the formulation and implementation of national and international development efforts. In particular, the countries of the subregion which face vulnerabilities born of their undiversified economies and structure rigidities, stood to benefit from interventions such as the Symposium, to develop expertise in the identification and alignment of the linkages between national development plans and international development objectives.

6. She recalled the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR), held on 22 April 2016, in Basseterre, which provided a forum for the subregion to reflect on how best to advance the national interests of the Caribbean in line with global mandates, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This Symposium, thus represented a tangible and timely follow-up activity by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Mainstreaming the SDGs within national development plans was therefore a crucial step towards achieving the level of development desired by the countries of the subregion. The Representative of Jamaica concluded by underscoring that the deliberations of the Symposium should serve as a call to further action in that regard.

7. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jamaica, in his remarks, took note of the high level of participation in the Symposium, and the demonstrated interest in cooperating across borders to advance sustainable development. He underscored the importance of 'mainstreaming the SDGs in national development planning', noting that, they represent a challenge and must be overcome. Moreover, in the Caribbean, there was also the need to integrate the SAMOA Pathway for the sustainable development of SIDS into a synergized development strategy. He suggested that would undoubtedly add to the complexity of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and may likely pose an added challenge to the countries of the subregion.

8. He shared the view that the SDGs should be integrated into national development plans, and that the establishment of indicators would allow countries to track their progress. In such a framework, the generation of reliable data for the measurement of the indicators would be required. The support being provided by ECLAC to Caribbean countries, therefore, offered an excellent opportunity for States to engage in peer learning and to exchange good practices.

9. The Ambassador noted that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and ECLAC had enjoyed a successful and strategic partnership in the region for more than two decades. The current cooperation programme was focused on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its goal was to support the countries of the region in their effort to integrate the SDGs into their development plans and to develop the indicators necessary to track progress. During the previous phase of the cooperation programme with ECLAC, the focus of the work in the Caribbean was on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. That focus coincided with a regional development programme in the same fields, and good progress had been made, in some

islands, towards a “greener energy matrix”. Although the nature of the cooperation had shifted towards a broader development approach directly linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the energy transition continued to be a priority.

10. The Ambassador advised the meeting that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany together with ECLAC, wanted to offer a platform for exchange and learning, and to customize support and advice, where needed. He noted that sustainable development had been a core objective of his country since they adopted their own national sustainable development strategy in 2002. The main principles of the German sustainable development strategy included intergenerational justice, quality of life, social cohesion and international responsibility. Progress was evaluated every four years through data driven analysis and complemented with an open exchange including representatives of civil society.

11. He considered the Symposium an ideal launching pad for promoting exchange of experiences and best practice.

12. The Director of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed all participants and thanked the Governments of Jamaica and the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), for their support of the initiative.

13. She underscored that ECLAC’s support to the countries of the subregion for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was evident at the highest levels of the Organization, with the presence of the Deputy Chief of the Executive Secretary’s Office at the event, which demonstrated ECLAC’s wider support for the important work of the Symposium.

14. She recalled that one year had passed since the adoption of the SDGs by the international community. The first High-Level Political Forum, which convened last summer, reaffirmed that the Agenda was ‘people-centred, universal and transformative, with goals and targets that were integrated and indivisible, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development’. The new agenda had been described as “a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, to be implemented by all countries and stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership”. The Symposium, therefore, was most timely as Latin America and the Caribbean prepared to join other regions in mapping the planning and implementation phase of Agenda 2030.

15. The purpose of the Symposium was to reaffirm the role of Caribbean countries in advancing the process within the wider regional framework. Within that context, ECLAC would support countries’ renewed efforts to pursue the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean. The meeting was, therefore, an opportunity to gain greater clarity on the broader global and regional review process and the role Caribbean countries could play within it. In that regard, the meeting served also as a timely opportunity for Caribbean consultation in preparation for the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development¹, which was scheduled to be held from 26 to 28 April, 2017, in Mexico. The reports by Member States on their stewardship would be submitted to the General Assembly through the High-Level Political Forum. Moreover, the annual Forum, offered an opportunity for peer learning during the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process.

16. The Director emphasized that the SDGs represented a fundamental shift in thinking on development policy and progress as they balanced the three critical elements: the economic, social and

¹ The regional mechanism of Latin America and the Caribbean for reporting on the implementation of the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

environmental, in an organic fashion. The new vision encompassed growth with equity and environmental sustainability. As SIDS, the challenges to implementation were even more complex as the SIDS sustainable development agenda needed to be integrated along with the SDGs into national development plans. The implementation of the Agenda will reenergise the subregion, which had to face a high debt burden, limited fiscal space and pervasive social and environmental vulnerability. The SDGs, when implemented as a composite whole, will offer countries of the subregion a blueprint for development that is truly integrative, comprehensive and dynamic. In order to be transformative, the agenda also needed to be resilient and guided by national vision and leadership. There was also need for a strategy that built human capacity, particularly in highly skilled fields; and increased domestic and international resources, which through investment or partnership, could assist in energizing the creativity and innovativeness of the Caribbean population. Success in SDG implementation would not be achieved without dedicated leadership invested in a defined institutional framework at the national level.

17. Recently, development planning in the Caribbean had not been uniformly established. More frequently, countries pursued medium-term macroeconomic or sector-specific strategies. For the countries that were currently implementing a national development plan, such plans generally pre-dated the adoption of the SDG and the SAMOA Pathway. Those plans would, therefore, not fully reflect the commitment to these global agendas at the time of adoption. Mainstreaming the SDGs will therefore require a commitment to long-term planning which must be comprehensive, engaging and designed to go beyond the finite cycle of political regimes.

18. The follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda integrally included national, regional and global reporting mechanisms that are data-intensive and are poised to further challenge the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the Caribbean. Beyond their perception as a challenge, the SDGs represented an opportunity for Caribbean countries to address data inadequacy once and for all. Advancing evidence-based policy planning requires data that are of high quality, accessible, timely and disaggregated. Ultimately, data should inform the selection of targets and indicators for gauging the attainment of national development priorities.

19. In the light of that, the Symposium served as the launch of a project financed by BMZ-GIZ in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through that project, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Planning of Public Administration Division of ECLAC (ILPES) would promote evidence-based policy planning for sustainable development in the subregion. The framework of SDG indicators was no less demanding in terms of data. For that reason, ECLAC had placed great importance on ensuring that the Caribbean produced globally comparable and standardized statistics for the SDG indicators.

20. More work was needed to strengthen National Statistical Systems (NSS) in the Caribbean. Significant investment was required to transform operations and enhance capacity of the NSS. Proper planning, including the identification and production of baseline data for indicators, would be required to adequately undertake the task. Through the Symposium and during subsequent workshops that ECLAC will organize, areas of need for technical assistance would be identified in order to support Member States in SDG planning, implementation and reporting.

2. Plenary sessions

21. The Symposium explored the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning in plenary sessions along the following ten thematic areas:

- i. Understanding the global and regional frameworks of SDG follow-up and review

- ii. National institutional frameworks for planning and implementing the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway
- iii. The Caribbean experience in mainstreaming the SDGs in existing national development plans
- iv. The Caribbean experience in integrating from inception the SDGs in new national development plans
- v. Examining tools for integrated national development planning
- vi. Tools and initiatives for statistical capacity building
- vii. Meeting the data demands for SDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean
- viii. Framework for coordination of inter-agency support for SDG implementation in the Caribbean
- ix. Exchange of views towards core indicators for monitoring implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean
- x. Towards a core set of indicators

Plenary Session 1: Understanding the global and regional frameworks for SDG follow-up and review

22. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations moderated the first panel that provided context for global and regional frameworks for SDG follow-up and review. The discussants were the Deputy Chief of the Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the Director-General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. In her introduction, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago noted that the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, with its 17 goals and 169 targets encompassing economic, social and environmental development, required a comprehensive and coherent SDGs monitoring and review framework that took stock of progress, encouraged exchange of best practices, and facilitated peer learning. In the absence of a robust review process, there was the risk that countries would fail to achieve implementation goals, notwithstanding the establishment of a comprehensive set of indicators. To that end, Member States agreed that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework at the national, regional, and global levels would make a vital contribution to implementation. That would also help countries to maximize and track progress in their implementation, thus ensuring that no one is left behind.

23. Especially pertinent, in that regard, was recognition that the 2030 Agenda was focused on action and accountability, with special emphasis placed on national implementation. The Permanent Representative suggested that an important motivation for the VNRs focus on the SDGs was the consequent mobilization of effort to address challenges that require international cooperation and solidarity. Among those challenges, the fight against extreme poverty, reducing inequalities, addressing environmental degradation, and maintaining a stable climate are paramount, and to that end required a robust follow-up and review process at the global and regional levels.

An overview of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

24. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a new development paradigm, which is country-led and takes into account the respective realities and capacities of countries and their national priorities. The Regional Economic Commissions play an important role in fostering mutual learning, exchange of best practices, and transborder cooperation to address shared regional challenges in mainstreaming the SDGs. The Deputy Chief of the Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC explained that the context for SDG implementation in the region remained complex. Latin America and the Caribbean was experiencing relatively low growth and trade slowdown, with fiscal constraints and limited investment in physical infrastructure, capacity building and research and development. Moreover, the region was subject to persistent structural imbalances and gaps, including lack of diversification of the

production sector, lags in productivity and innovation, poverty and income concentration, all exacerbated by the shared vulnerability of the countries of the subregion to climate change.

25. Further, there was urgent need to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs among Caribbean and Latin American populations. Key to that strategy is the development of national frameworks that integrate the SDGs into national development plans, policy tools, and business models. Moreover, such a strategy should also facilitate the promotion of interinstitutional coordination among government and public entities, as well as multi-sector collaboration and multi-stakeholder platforms. Thus, specific options should include the creation of inter-ministerial entities for holistic and multi-sectoral dialogue related to the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda; the integration of the SDGs into national and sub-national development plans; and awareness-building campaigns that engage multi-stakeholders. In particular, ECLAC recommended the establishment of new coalitions between the state, private sector and civil society to foster multi-actor and cross-sectoral participatory dialogues and coordination with platforms and networks of actors.

26. Within that context, ECLAC played a leading role in supporting Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the delivery of courses, seminars, and technical assistance in order to strengthen countries' capacities in this process. ECLAC also supported the strengthening of statistical capacities to measure the SDGs. In addition, the Deputy Chief advanced that at the regional level, there were a series of mechanisms aimed at establishing bridges between the national and global dimensions. Those mechanisms created an analytical framework and regional space for policy dialogue using an integrated vision of the SDGs, based on comparable data, statistics and methodologies. Data gaps were highlighted in terms of availability, capacities for measurement of the SDGs, and their value for evidence-based decision-making. He also urged that 2030 Agenda should be implemented in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate related international development agreements addressing global or SIDS-specific issues, such as financing for development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change. Attention was given to the means of implementation for effective financing of the SDGs, including, *inter alia*, fiscal policies, investment financing, and the ECLAC proposal for debt alleviation for the highly indebted countries of the Caribbean.

The Deputy Chief recalled that ECLAC resolution 700 (XXXVI) mandated the annual convening of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional initiative in support of the global High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Forum will facilitate debate on regional priorities, challenges and aspirations, as well as the promotion of shared learning and South-South cooperation. The first Session, scheduled for 26-28 April 2017 in Mexico City should provide a regional contribution to the global High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Important features of the Forum include interactive peer review, which provide countries with the opportunity to discuss their respective institutional arrangements and frameworks; formal discussions on the regional indicators framework and the challenges of national statistical systems for the measurement of the indicators associated with the SDGs; and exploration of various policy challenges and recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

27. The Forum represents an important platform for Caribbean countries, given the challenges that they face in mainstreaming SDGs at the national level, including inadequate resources for investment in institutional capacity and infrastructure. The ECLAC annual report for the Forum will present policy trade-offs to guide Member States in addressing the challenges faced, including limited data, fiscal constraints, and physical and human resources limitations in the Caribbean. One session will be dedicated to policy challenges, where concrete tools for policy makers will be presented.

28. To ensure holistic support for Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, ECLAC also integrated the 2030 Agenda into the work plan of its subsidiary bodies. ECLAC has sought to strengthen the existing regional architecture for SDG support by collaborating with other regional actors, including CARICOM, UNASUR, CELAC, SICA, OECS, among others. In this regard, a Regional Observatory on Planning for Sustainable Development, which will be a regional repository of national development plans has been created to serve as a critical tool for peer learning and support. The Repository will be officially launched in November 2017 at ECLAC's Regional Conference on Planning.

29. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the global mechanism for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. It is intended that the SDGs will be reviewed annually under a specific theme. The 2016 theme was 'Leave no one behind' and focused on the national capacities for integration, follow-up, challenges of measurement and data disaggregation, as well as the central role of planning, SDG awareness and the importance of multi-stakeholder's perspective. During that process, three countries from Latin America and the Caribbean² presented their Voluntary National Reviews. The theme for 2017 is "Poverty Eradication and promoting prosperity in a changing world". Eleven countries from Latin America and the Caribbean will present their Voluntary National Reviews, Belize being the only country from the Caribbean subregion to do so. The Deputy Chief encouraged Caribbean countries to participate in this global peer review process, reminding them that the registration deadline to present Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 is mid-October 2017.

Positioning to implement the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Framework

30. Implementation of the SDG indicator framework will require coordination at both the national and regional levels. The Director-General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, in her presentation noted that monitoring implementation of the SDGs had created increased demand for data and puts further stress on the capacity and resources of national statistics systems (NSS). She described the Caribbean countries as having little or no coordination in the statistical systems and limited levels of disaggregated data, given their small size and limited resources for regular surveys. This has led to an increased reliance on administrative data, which are not readily accessible. She therefore referred to Goal 17 of the SDGs, which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, and expressed the need for substantial support for the modernization of national statistical offices (NSOs) and NSSs if the SDG indicator frameworks in Caribbean countries are to be successfully established.

31. At the national level, Jamaica, with the assistance of PARIS21, had intensified efforts to strengthen the NSS with the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). That intervention was expected to allow the NSS to improve the coordination among data producers and users; standardize classification, and ensure that methodologies were in conformity with international standards; reduce the costly duplication of efforts across agencies; and integrate statistics into national planning. Further, the Director-General observed that with the support of UNDP, under its Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support programme (MAPS), a Roadmap for SDG implementation in Jamaica was developed, which outlined critical steps toward achieving the 2030 Agenda. That Roadmap was the product of collaboration between the national focal points on SDG.³ It highlighted some of the challenges and opportunities for Jamaica in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, and provided several recommendations, including the further development of the NSS, the

² Columbia, Mexico, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

³ The National Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

strengthening of the capacities of data users, and partnering with private sector and civil society for the generation of new data.

32. In recounting Jamaica's effort to strengthen its capacity for data collection and analysis, the Director-General noted that STATIN played a leading role in developing the NSS, including strengthening the legal framework to establish the NSS and, with the support of PARIS21, developed a National Strategy for the development of statistics. This process followed a comprehensive national consultation to identify Jamaica's critical capacity constraints and requirements in the NSS. Consultations were held with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to assess the availability of data to monitor the SDGs. The consultations, which she suggested represented a good practice that should be replicated in other countries, revealed that the country currently produced 66 of the SDG indicators (29.6 per cent), and that there were data to facilitate the production of another 69 indicators (30.9 per cent). The greatest gaps were for SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 14 (oceans), and SDG 15 (land and biodiversity), where very little data existed to allow for measurement of progress.

33. The Director-General reported that Jamaica will implement a comprehensive programme in 2017, which will assess the technical capacity of data producers in the public sector, and provide training and capacity building for individuals involved in the production of statistics in various MDAs. Special attention will be given to identifying institutional, statistical and technological gaps in the system.

34. The meeting recognized that all stakeholders, including the private sector, would need to be involved in the implementation of the SDGs if the process is to succeed. It was suggested that a Caribbean mapping of national institutional arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda be pursued. The sharing of strategies and success stories through peer review was also identified as crucial to enhancing both individual and collective effort to achieve the SDGs. Further, taking into consideration the lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs, special attention should be given to ensuring that collected data is disaggregated according to international norms, including by age, and gender, to permit more comprehensive analysis and monitoring of progress.

35. The Director-General also reported that STATIN underwent a transformation process, which included the strengthening of its institutional framework, improving efficiencies at the operational level, using information technology to modernize processes, deploying mechanisms to improve the communication and dissemination of information, developing a quality assurance framework, and strengthening statistical programmes. She underscored the fact that, the culture of privacy made the sharing of information difficult, hence the need to modernize the production and use of statistics at the national and regional levels.

36. At the regional level, Jamaica acknowledged the contribution of the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS) in advancing a regional approach to the development of statistics. For example, in 2014, the CCS hosted the CARICOM High Level Forum on Statistics (HLF), with the theme 'A Data Revolution for Sustainable Development'. A second HLF was convened to garner political support for increasing investment in statistics in countries of the region. In addition, Jamaica also benefited from the various workshops that were convened by the CCS to build capacity and review the SDG indicators within the context of national and regional priorities. Similarly, the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and its subsidiary group, the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS), were proactive in enabling the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda at the regional meetings. In particular, the efforts of the SCCS resulted in the High-level political endorsement and adoption of an Action Plan for the Development of Statistics in CARICOM. Altogether, governments were committed to supporting and increasing investments in statistics.

37. Notwithstanding the progress achieved, there was still a need to develop a comprehensive strategy in Jamaica focusing on the benefits of an improved statistical system in the country. Global partnership to support implementation of the SDGs was considered very important. In that regard, Jamaica acknowledged the support it had received from UNDP in the development of the Roadmap for Implementation, and from PARIS21 for the development of the NSS. Other partners, which offered critical support for the development of the statistical system in Jamaica included the Tenth European Development Fund, the Project for the Regional Advancement for Statistics in Caribbean (PRASC), and the Caribbean Regional technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) of the International Monetary Fund.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 1

The meeting reached general consensus on the importance of the following issues:

- i. There is a critical need to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs throughout all levels of society, and to mainstream the SDGs into the national development planning processes.
- ii. ECLAC was mandated to play a leading role in support of Members States' efforts to implement, follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda, through capacity building and technical assistance interventions.
- iii. To ensure comprehensive UN system support to Member States, ECLAC proposed to collaborate with regional and international development partners to ensure mainstreaming of SDGs into national development planning processes. Representatives of UN agencies and other partners from the development community indicated their readiness to respond to requests from countries for support and technical assistance.
- iv. There is a critical role for CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to play in strengthening a subregional approach to SDG implementation particularly as regards the enhancement of national and regional reporting mechanisms, and voluntary reporting at the global level.
- v. The 2030 Agenda created increased demands for data and statistics, and further stretched the limited resources of national statistical systems. Notwithstanding, implementation of the SDGs was viewed as an opportunity rather than a burden to advance the quality of life for all peoples. Ensuring effective SDG implementation will require building synergies, organizing, streamlining and prioritizing public spending and modernising Government architecture.
- vi. National consultations to identify the critical capacity constraints and requirements in the NSS were considered a good practice for replication among Caribbean countries.

Plenary Session 2: National institutional frameworks for planning and implementing the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway

38. The Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development Goals in the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA) moderated the second panel discussion. The discussants were the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Jamaica. The Panel explored the importance of national institutional frameworks for planning as a critical component of the strategy for mainstreaming the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway within the national development planning process.

39. It should be recalled that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sought mainly to eradicate poverty in a sustainable and inclusive manner. The SDGs now represent a new development paradigm that promotes an integrated and wholistic approach to advancing sustainable development. In that context, the Senior Advisor reaffirmed the commitment of the President of the UNGA to supporting the subregion in the SDG process. She further asserted that SDGs call for a revolutionary approach to development, and

will require that Member States look at their respective national institutional frameworks for planning and for implementing the SDGs in a new and dynamic manner.

Finding a home for the SDGs in national implementation strategies

40. The Director of ECLAC Caribbean posited that the subregion had inherited a post-colonial bureaucracy designed to support work in silos, whereby Government ministries pursued their own mandates with limited consultation or collaboration with one another. That type of interaction did not lend itself to integrated national planning or for the synergizing of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.

41. The process of integrating the SDGs into national institutional frameworks should be grounded in a clear set of normative principles, including an assessment of the past; national ownership; recognition of the indivisibility of the goals; the elimination of operational silos, and customizing the process to take into consideration the unique national context of each country. The Director suggested that the design of a roadmap would facilitate the identification of critical entry points for integrating the SDGs, and for identifying opportunities for interconnectivity among the goals at the national level.

42. The Director emphasized the extent to which the 17 Goals are interconnected and inter-dependent, demanding an integrated approach for their effective implementation. Countries needed to identify an institution or a combination of institutions to assume responsibility for integrated development planning. She suggested that the institutions that should be a part of the national development planning process, include, but are not limited to, the Prime Minister or President's Office, the Foreign Ministry, the Finance Ministry, the agency responsible for planning the Statistical Office and Committees or Councils with representation from any combination of these lead institutions. Operating within silos was no longer possible. Countries therefore need to consider how best to create horizontal policy coherence in order to enhance cross-sectoral institutional collaboration. Strengthening vertical policy coherence would also facilitate the inclusion of local government and municipal councils in the national planning process.

43. The Director noted that the challenges, which the subregion would ultimately face on its journey towards implementing the SDGs, are varied and significant.

44. One of the first issues was identifying priorities among the SDGs. It was recalled that the ECLAC Symposium on SDGs for the Caribbean, held in June 2015, acknowledged that the Caribbean faced limited financial and technical resources to support SDG implementation. Moreover, given the limited availability of data to measure many of the SDGs, monitoring their implementation will be challenging. For these reasons, early consideration was given to the need for the Caribbean to attempt a prioritization of the SDGs that would have greatest impact on the development trajectory of the subregion.

45. Specific attention was given to the persistent high debt of the countries of the subregion as well as continuing low levels of economic growth. In light of the current economic situation in the Caribbean, financing the SDGs was therefore likely to be a challenge. As a result, a more diversified financing plan for the SDGs was needed, one that should include traditional and non-traditional sources of financing.

46. In that regard, the Director informed the meeting on the status of the ECLAC debt for climate swaps proposal, an innovative idea that could relieve the existing limitations on government capacity to spend while opening new opportunities for investment in green industries using non-traditional sources of finance to build resilience to climate change, while promoting economic transformation.

47. At the global level, the meeting also took note of the signals of likely change in the policy of the United States of America as regards its contributions to some agencies of the United Nations, and the

possible consequences of such change on financing sustainable development. In this regard, the Special Adviser from the Office of the PGA identified two initiatives. First, she reported that the Permanent representatives of Canada and Jamaica had volunteered to start a Group of Friends for Sustainable Financing, and were collaborating with multilateral agencies within the United Nations umbrella, including the World Bank. She noted that meetings have been scheduled in the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago to determine financing for the SDGs. Secondly, she reported that China had also established the China UN Fund to facilitate the funding of large projects. Member States were advised to take advantage of these and other opportunities which might arise including from the private sector, to fill the gaps in financing.

48. The Special Adviser made a strong case for advancing a participatory approach to integrating the SDGs into national development plans. She asserted that the global goals should be assimilated into national contexts, via a participatory approach. Civil society, private sector, local governments and other stakeholder groups should all be allowed to contribute to the interpretation of national targets. In turn, those targets should serve as a checklist of national priorities. The SDG watchwords for the successful implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean should therefore be: ownership, participation, mainstreaming, measurement, monitoring, assessments, and accountability.

49. The Special Adviser underscored the importance of other processes and indicators, such as the Montevideo Consensus for Population and Development, and the Regional Gender Agenda, which served as mutually enhancing monitoring frameworks for the 2030 Agenda. She encouraged member states to ensure that there was no duplication of effort, and that countries aligned their work to establish a framework for monitoring and measurement with the ongoing effort of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG) and the UN Statistical Committees.

50. Concerns regarding the evidence-based approach were raised by Trinidad and Tobago, reporting that little attention has been paid to the policy life cycle. Focus should be on policy development as well as on the monitoring and evaluation aspects.

51. Within the Caribbean, there had been some scepticism about goal-setting due to previous experiences, where new administrations take on new goals and objectives and abandon old ones without taking them into account going forward. Successful SDG implementation will require more coherence at the policy level. There will also be need for continuity across different political regimes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was also intended to be inclusive and integrative. Countries were, therefore, encouraged to find a participatory approach to SDG implementation, working with institutions that will allow for continuity in the longer-term.

52. SDG mainstreaming will therefore require raising public awareness via workshops, multi-stakeholder consultations and engagements. The Director of ECLAC Caribbean suggested that national ownership will be facilitated through grass root involvement and community participation in the development of initiatives that support the SDGs. The SDGs should also be contextualized to national circumstances and realities, recognizing that while global targets are aspirational, countries will have to set national and subnational targets. In that regard, it is critical that countries use the agreed SDG indicator framework to ensure greater synergy in the setting of national SDG targets and indicators that are realistic and address national development priorities.

53. During discussion on the positioning of the SDGs within national implementation strategies, several countries shared their progress made in integrating the SDGs into national development planning processes. Grenada, for example, indicated that they were in the process of developing a national strategic plan with their Ministry of Economic Development. The process will be led by the Ministry of Planning

and will seek collaboration with other partners in the public sector and civil society. They noted that a framework had been established for mainstreaming the SDGs.

54. Similarly, the Bahamas was in the process of finalizing its National Development Plan 2040, within which the SDGs had been integrated. To ensure national ownership of the process, various stakeholders were made integral to the drafting of the plan, including civil society, academia, and the private sector. The Bahamas was also leveraging the UN meeting on SDGs and SIDS that they would host later in February as an opportunity to promote the importance of partnerships with public institutions to support SDG implementation.

Ensuring national ownership of the SDGs

55. The Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Jamaica presented a case study of Jamaica's transition from the MDGs to the SDGs to illustrate how countries can ensure national ownership of the SDGs to facilitate its achievement.

56. It was recalled that one of the main weaknesses discerned in MDG implementation in the Caribbean was the lack of national ownership, reflected in the absence of community buy-in and of local champions to speak for the people. It is well recognised that development agendas have greatest impact on people's lives when successfully implemented at the local level.

57. Jamaica's work preparing for the SDGs begun as early as 2013, with national consultations that involved policymakers, academics, interested persons, youth and other vulnerable groups and the private sector. A second round of consultations was held in 2015, and highlighted key strategic findings, including the growing inequities in sectors of employment, education and health. It was then that Jamaica decided that they would work towards SDG implementation giving priority to targets of job creation, citizen security and justice; access to basic services, and social protection.

58. Adoption of the SAMOA Pathway also influenced the design of Jamaica's development plan given the unique development challenges faced by SIDS with which the country identified. The SAMOA Pathway thus provided both context and substance for Jamaica's focus on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

59. To facilitate SDG implementation, Jamaica received support from UNDP through its Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS)⁴ mission to develop a Roadmap for SDG acceleration. The MAPS mission was guided by the outcome of a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) conducted for Jamaica, that measured the extent to which Jamaica's development plan was congruent with the 2030 development framework. The RIA involves a review of all planning documents and sectoral plans of Jamaica. In addition, issues of coordination, planning, financing, monitoring and reporting, data ecosystem, and advocacy were addressed.

⁴ The Strategy provides guidelines on Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national and local levels, and on integrating them into national, sub-national, and local plans for development, as well as subsequently into the budget allocation process. Acceleration refers to targeting national and UN resources at priority areas identified in the mainstreaming process, paying particular attention to synergies and trade-offs across sectors, bottlenecks, financing and partnership, and measurement. Policy Support ensures that the skills and expertise held in the UN development system is made available in a timely manner and at the lowest possible cost.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 2

- i. A dedicated institutional framework is required to assume responsibility for integrated national development planning and the broader implementation of the SDGs.
- ii. The SDGs should be contextualized within national circumstances and realities, and require strategic public awareness campaigns for effective mainstreaming.
- iii. New development agendas that are people-centred in overall objective, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are most effective when there is buy-in at the local level. This requires national ownership, community involvement and the identification of local champions.
- iv. Regional and international partnership are required to support national processes in building capacity for the implementation of the SDGs.
- v. The SDGs require innovative and creative rethinking; there is need to avoid working in silos with policy discontinuity.

Plenary Session 3: The Caribbean experience in mainstreaming the SDGs in existing national development plans

60. The third panel discussion was moderated by the Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. The discussants were the Senior Economist of the Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum of Belize, the Programme Director of the Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, and the Director of the Research and Planning Unit in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados. The Panel considered the experiences of Barbados, Belize and Jamaica: three countries that were further advanced in their mainstreaming of the SDGs into existing national development plans.

Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) - 2016-2019: The experience of Belize

61. The Senior Economist of Belize revealed that their strategy was the result of a process that started prior to 2007, with the development of 3- year medium term macro-economic development plans and a poverty reduction strategy. However, in 2007, through a process of national consensus-building, there was agreement to develop one coherent long-term vision, that would transcend partisan politics, to guide the development of future medium-term plans. In 2009, a long-term visioning process began that led to the adoption of the ‘Horizon 2030 Long term vision for Belize’.

62. That approach was driven by strong country ownership, including the participation of a steering committee with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from diverse ministries and entities, core teams along with consultant with other stakeholders, all embedded in a strong results-based framework which linked programme budgeting to a corresponding indicator framework. Other inputs into the process included the Macro-economic Framework, with the participation of Central Bank; and a Theoretical Policy Framework, as well as the application of a constraints management approach to strategic planning, and extensive stakeholder engagement. One of the immediate outcomes of this extensive engagement was the 2017 budget, which was being prepared with a view to ensuring alignment with both the SDGs and the national plan.

63. Despite its commitment to pursue a long-term development plan, Belize experienced several challenges in the pursuit of that goal. First, there were resource constraints. As a result, some important activities, including the construction of necessary infrastructure, engaging individuals with the correct skills, and undertaking necessary research and feasibility studies, proved challenging to implement. In addition, plans and strategies were neither aligned nor consistent with the development planning framework. There was also a need to prioritize objectives in order to optimize the country’s vision and

goals. The need for more effective coordination also posed a challenge, since the current planning model was decentralized with little communication or coordination among ministries. Sectors were thus managed independently in silos. Inadequate management, a lack of motivation, and a weak accountability framework within the civil service were also major concerns. Moreover, weak governance structures hindered the optimal achievement of development results and there was a need to more strategically raise public awareness, which had not previously been as effective as it could have been. Finally, there was a risk of undermining the sustainability of the process. Agencies were challenged by excessive responsibilities, insufficient staffing for tasks at hand, lack of appropriate equipment and limited transportation, and operational budgets were being cut rather than expanded to meet increased demands.

64. In spite of these challenges, Belize volunteered to be one of the UN's Sustainable Development Pilot countries in 2013, and in 2014, received financial and technical support from UNDESA and UNDP to develop their national sustainable development strategy.

65. The Belize Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2016-2019 that resulted is a medium-term comprehensive national plan, aligned with the country's vision (Horizon 2030). The Strategy mainstreams the SDGs in Belize's national planning framework and reflects strategic actions that are expected to contribute towards attaining sub-goals, goals and the overall objective. Sector plans must be consistent with the GSDS and linked to the budget. Plans must be monitored and evaluated to inform actions to improve performance, and to inform successive rounds of planning and budgeting.

66. For the implementation process, particular attention was again paid to effective coordination across institutional or ministerial boundaries as well as non-governmental stakeholders. That strategy was intended to avoid duplication and build synergies within the context of limited resources, as well as to improve transparency and accountability. Also, there was continuous improvement and enhancement in the capacities and skills of institutions and individuals (planning, budgeting, policy coordination, monitoring, evaluation and sustainable development concepts and practices). Further, specific attention was also given to the availability of financial and human resources; entrenching programme budgeting, with complementary institutional arrangements for implementation that improve the functioning of the system.

67. Importantly, Belize described the leading entities comprising the institutional infrastructure intended to support implementation of the SDGs and the GSDS. These were the Office of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The responsibility of the CEO Caucus is to review the GSDS and resolve prioritization issues and policy conflicts. The Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum has the overall responsibility for coordination, and within that context, four technical inter-ministerial committees review the policies that are in the process of being established. Finally, an advisory body, the 'Economic and Sustainable Development Council' is a multi-sectoral body, with representation from the private sector, chamber of commerce and other non-state actors, who give guidance on implementation and future priorities.

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan: The experience of Jamaica

68. The Jamaica presentation affirmed a long history of planning, though mostly on the basis of short term frameworks and usually coinciding with the tenure in government of a given political party. The Programme Director of the Planning Institute of Jamaica asserted that Vision 2030 represented a significant departure from that norm, in that the shaping of this development plan resulted from a high level of political engagement and participation of different stakeholders, including political parties, private sector, youth and children committed to the broad context for 'planning for a secure and prosperous future,' independent of any one political party. Specific acknowledgement was given the fact that in 2030, today's children and youth will be adults fully engaged in the development process.

Concerted effort was therefore made to include students at all levels of the education system, including public and private schools.

69. The Jamaican Vision 2030 was underpinned by a people centred approach and the principles of sustainability, transparency and accountability, transformational leadership, equity, social cohesion, sustainable urban and rural development and aligned with key national and international framework, including the budget and other plans, such as tourism. Vision 2030 introduced a new paradigm for Jamaica, putting the country on a path to sustainable prosperity. It called for every citizen to participate in the process. Moreover, the new planning model was based on higher forms of capital, higher value added production and exports and a change of mindset and culture favourable to innovation. It was uniquely designed to achieve Jamaica's professed principal objective; to make the country the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

70. The Plan was structured with a national vision and four national goals, accompanied by 15 national outcomes, 84 national strategies. One of the national goals was empowering citizens to achieve their fullest potential. That goal was related to national outcomes linked to ensuring a healthy and stable population, enjoying world-class education and training, effective social protection and authentic and transformational culture. For another major goal, ensuring a secure, cohesive and just Jamaican society, the outcomes related to security and safety, and effective governance. The outcomes thus encapsulated all the country's aspirations for 2030.

71. The implementation of Vision 2030 was based on the Medium Term socio-economic policy Framework (MTF). The MTF provides for the incorporation of new issues within the development process after 3 years. In 2014, thematic working groups were established with private, international development partners and the public sector to inform the monitoring and evaluation process. These working groups meet on a regular basis to assess progress in the implementation of the national plan.

72. At the end of 2016, 25 percent of the targets were met or exceeded and 34 percent remained the same or had worsened, compared with the 2007 baseline; 39 percent of the targets had improved over the baseline.⁵ The summary of performance of national goals provides a comprehensive picture of the status of the country in the implementation of the national development plan.

73. To assess the alignment of its overarching development planning framework with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Government of Jamaica took advantage of UNDP's offer for the conduct of a Mission to facilitate the mainstreaming. The outcome of that MAPS Mission, which was conducted in October 2016, resulted in the development of a road map for SDG implementation in Jamaica. The key finding was that Vision 2030 Jamaica, the National Development Plan, its implementation framework and sectoral policies were strongly aligned with the SDGs. Moreover, the planning documents reflected either full or partial alignment, achieving a 91 per cent alignment with the 115 SDG targets deemed relevant for Jamaica. Jamaica was therefore confident that its Vision 2030 national development plan would ensure effective synergy with SDG implementation.

74. An important factor in the shaping of Vision 2030 Jamaica was that the national development planning framework was created through a process of bicameral consultation and consensus support. Moreover, the Plan deepened integration with the results-based planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation processes in the Government. Work continues towards the development of a corporate and business plan with the Vision 2030 Jamaica. This corporate plan should be aligned with the national development plan and budget. Finally, Jamaica hailed Vision 2030 as a highly participatory planning

⁵ Indicators were based on a continuous improvement process.

process open to innovation and improvement which, in their view represented a benchmark for regional and global best practices.

Medium-Term Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 2013-2020: The experience of Barbados

75. Barbados gave account of its efforts to implement medium to long-term planning since the early 2000s. For example, the Director of the Research and Planning Unit noted that in 2006, the National Strategic Plan of Barbados (NSP) 2006-2015 was approved by Parliament. More recently, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Government of Barbados began the revision of the Barbados Medium-Term Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 2013-2020 in June 2016 in order to align it with the new global agenda. Consultations were held with ministries, agencies, private sector, and civil society in order to sensitize all stakeholders with the ongoing process to align the SDGs with the national development plan and to provide them with an overview of the overall objective of the revised development strategy. The critical success factors for effective SDG implementation identified were continued economic, social and political stability; strong governance; national ownership, dialogue, and consensus; development financing and technical assistance; global stability and continued UN led support.

76. The Government was in the process of editing and reviewing the work submitted by ministries/departments to ensure proper alignment with SDGs. More needed to be done to ensure the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation framework which was viewed as important, in order to promote transparency in the assessment ongoing challenges and progress being made towards implementation of the national development strategy.

77. The design and implementation of the national development plan was viewed as encompassing participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches. The establishment of a tripartite working committee for the SDGs was therefore recommended. This Committee would work with the ministries, the Prime Minister's Office, private sector, civil society, and labour, with the Government serving as the facilitator to the process. Such an approach was in line with the Jamaican experience in establishing multisectoral groups while preparing their national plan.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 3

- i. The national development planning model should be centralized with strong coordination and collaboration between all stakeholders, including executing government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector. In this regard, the tripartite working committee approach was recommended as a good practice. Ultimately, the national development plan should engender consensus support.
- ii. The national development plan should be people-centred, espousing principles of sustainability, transparency, accountability, equality, and social cohesion.
- iii. The development planning framework should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNDP MAPS mission has been considered an effective mechanism for assessing the degree of country alignment. The need for a clearly defined role for the private sector in SDG mainstreaming was also emphasised.
- iv. External and internal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are critical to ensuring transparency; for effective assessment of national development strategy implementation; to track progress; and for the identification of outstanding challenges.

Plenary Session 4: The Caribbean experience in integrating from inception the SDGs in new national development plans

78. The fourth panel discussion was moderated by the Deputy Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. The discussants were the Policy Director of the Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, the Director of Budget of the Ministry of Finance of Guyana, Economist in the Department of Finance of Saint Lucia, and the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Aruba. The Panel considered the experiences of Caribbean countries that were at the initial stages of mainstreaming the SDGs into new national development plans.

National Development Plan Curaçao – 2015-2030: The experience of Curaçao

79. The Policy Director of the Ministry of Economic Development revealed that although Curaçao had adopted the strategic approach of consolidating various existing thematic plans, complemented with national consultations among various stakeholders in order to develop its National Development Plan (NDP), the SDGs provided the context for re-shaping the thematic focus of the Plan and for mainstreaming the key goals. Curaçao's NDP is built on five thematic pillars: education, economy, sustainability, national identity and good governance. To implement the NDP, a coordination unit was established. Technical support was provided by various line ministries. Of note, poverty was not specifically identified as a pillar where the prioritisation of the SDGs was concerned. Curaçao argued that poverty was addressed through other strategies.

Curaçao had experienced some notable successes during the process of developing the Plan. As regards raising awareness among the population of the SDGs, with support from UNDP, a capacity development programme for journalists and others working in media had been delivered. A Tripartite National Platform was established, representing a major accomplishment that facilitated dialogue on national issues of refinery, labour reform, tax reform and restructuring of the economy. Major challenges identified included the development of technical capacity, establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework, and securing stronger global and regional support.

Green State Development Strategy Framework – 2017-2030: The experience of Guyana

80. With support from UNEP, Guyana is in the process of developing a Green State Development Strategy Framework 2017-2030. The Director of Budget of the Ministry of Finance reported that the draft was being finalised.

81. As part of the ongoing national consultation process, the draft Strategy will receive inputs during July to October 2017 and was expected to be finalized in November 2017. Some of the challenges Guyana experienced with incorporating the SDGs into the Development Strategy Framework included limited human technical capacity and a lack of financial resources, limited data, and limited reach to indigenous and other interior communities. Contrary to the challenge that small size presented to other Caribbean countries, Guyana has vast land area but limited infrastructure and capacity to access and fully encapsulate the entire country, particularly the remote areas. In that regard, a key priority of the draft Strategy was the integration of the indigenous communities in the hinterland regions which were considered to be marginalized with less access to services. Other groups such as the youth, women and older persons were also prioritized in the development strategy.

82. The draft Strategy included five main areas: sustainable management natural resources; energy-transition towards renewable energy; infrastructure and spatial development; human development and wellbeing; and governance and institutional foundations. Attention was given equality and poverty within

the development framework. In this regard equality was not only looked at under the rubric of income, but also in the areas of gender, ethnicity, and cultural aspects.

83. In terms of institutional and budget framework, a statutory High Level SDG Steering Committee, comprising Permanent Secretaries and senior technical officers from related sectors, would be re-established. That Committee would be chaired by the Ministry of Finance and meet on a quarterly basis.

National Vision Plan: The experience of Saint Lucia

84. The Economist in the Department of Finance reported that St. Lucia's National Vision Plan represented the country's most comprehensive attempt at long term planning. The Plan started in 2016, and was mainly driven by the Department of Economic Planning. It was the result of a participatory process facilitated by public dialogue, and was accompanied by a monitoring framework that outlined indicators aligned to each national goal and outcome. Moreover, the Plan included baseline data and targets, at agreed intervals, to ensure measurement of convergence with the national goals.

85. The National Vision Plan was based on six broad pillars for long term development in Saint Lucia: Restructuring for competitiveness; Building strong institutions that are a platform for growth and development; Infrastructure, connectivity and energy which are key for growth and competitiveness; Adaptation for environmental sustainability and climate change; Social transformation, building social resilience and social capital; and Enhancing the labour force through education, training and workforce development.

86. A key strategy to facilitate implementation was the recruitment of facilitators, usually within Ministries, to push the process along based on the thematic pillars. That strategy was critical, to ensuring a more integrative approach to implementation of the plan, considering that most of the Ministries had a tendency to work in silo. One of the key features of the plan was to weave the individual Ministry work programmes together, so even as certain Ministries took responsibility for certain pillars, they continued to work in collaboration with one another.

87. For St. Lucia, zoning and incorporating national physical development plan and demographics and population policy for sustainable development were also viewed as critical. In this regard, the development of a land use policy which took cognizance of poverty figures when zoning the island was also given priority. In that regard, Dominica shared that it too had a similar approach to land use policy and the population strategies which were considered critical elements, and precursors to aligning the SDGs to the national plan. In the case of the land use policy for Dominica, the protected areas of the island were mapped out, distinguishing the tourism sites and those reserved for indigenous peoples from all other land uses purposes. Any other development in protected areas must be specifically designated in the national conservation plan.

88. Saint Lucia has not as yet established the monitoring and evaluation framework, nor were comprehensive stakeholder and consultation dialogues for its plan concluded. Notwithstanding, some challenges had already been identified with integrating the SDGs into the long-term development plan. These included the need for more effective coordination and the inevitable tensions between ministries regarding the institution that should assume overall responsibility for the SDGs; the lack of institutional culture of planning for the long-term; limited financial resources; and the weakness of the monitoring and evaluation that needed reinforcement. Regional and international partnerships were also recognized as critical to successful implementation including partnerships with research institutions and academia, financing and technical agencies, and civil society organisations.

The experience of Aruba

89. The Special Advisor to the Prime Minister provided an overview of the Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)⁶ as a good example of training and capacity building. The Centre was established in 2015, with the support of UNDP, and leveraged technical expertise and experience of SIDS in sustainable development. The Centre provided a platform for strengthening innovation and resilience among SIDS through south-south cooperation and exchange of knowledge on sustainable practices in areas such as energy, water, tourism, and health, among others, and produced knowledge products and tools to various thematic areas of the SDG framework. There was also a virtual platform with online courses where participants could communicate with each other and post their country experiences to foster more wide-spread learning.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 4

- i. National ownership was crucial as the process of SDG implementation was driven by national priorities.
- ii. Operating in silos at the national and regional levels, together with policy discontinuity were challenges that undermined the effective mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning. To that end, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs represent an opportunity to address structural problems and reengage with all stakeholders, including academia and the media.
- iii. The recruitment of implementation facilitators (champions) within executing agencies to advocate the national development process along strategic thematic pillars was endorsed and recommended as a good practice.
- iv. Lack of data, including disaggregated data, poses a severe challenge to the ability of policy makers to measure progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Plenary Session 5: Examining tools for integrated national development planning

90. The Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica moderated the fifth panel discussion. The discussants were the Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the Manager, Modelling Unit of the Planning Institute of Jamaica. The Panel facilitated an examination of available tools for integrated national development planning. To set the context for the discussion, the Director General recognized that although Jamaica had primarily adopted a five-year cycle to national development planning, integrated and broad consultative approaches in their formulation and dedicated monitoring mechanisms to track implementation were largely absent. As a result, the intended results of the plans were not always achieved.

91. Globally, there was a recognition that a better understanding of the dynamic interdependence and interconnectedness of numerous complex systems and sub-systems, including water, energy and ecosystems, and the impacts and changes they will undergo from various future threats, such as climate change, was required. Traditional sector-based approaches and tools did not fulfil that purpose as the challenges were more complex and systemic. Consequently, the integrated systems approach (ISA) was increasingly recognised as critical to sustainable development planning and strategy formulation, using tools such as CLEW (integrated tool for modelling the interrelated effects of Climate, Land use, Energy, and Water), iSDGs (integrated Sustainable Development Goals planning) and T21 (Threshold 21) models which use systems dynamics methodology to assess inter-sectoral linkages.

⁶ <http://www.sustainablesids.org/>.

92. The tracking and monitoring of the indicators associated with Vision 2030 Jamaica were aided by the National Development Plan Online Interactive Dashboard of Indicators, the country's first online interactive platform, launched in 2013, which increased awareness and ownership and provided users with a quick snapshot of Jamaica's efforts to meet its national development targets.

Overview of Available Tools for Integrated National Development Planning

93. The Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean advised that, making the correct choice of tools was critical to achieving integrated national development planning and data-driven, evidence-based policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Tools also promoted national ownership of the SDGs and their alignment with national development priorities would ensure their more effective implementation.

94. Among the available tools, MAPS promoted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) through the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), was, on the one hand, focused on policy coherence and multi-stakeholder engagement. Another tool, the SDG indicators framework, served as the template for developing national indicators. In that regard, context targets were viewed as aspirational, and each country was expected to set national and sub-national targets that were in line with global aspirations but that at the same time reflected circumstances and local realities. He therefore suggested that the SDG indicator framework be used to facilitate the development of national indicators.

95. Integrated national development planning should also foster policy coherence, both horizontal and vertical. Horizontal policy coherence promotes integrated policy analysis to ensure policies and programmes aligned with national goals, and facilitate stronger institutional mechanisms and collaboration across sectoral lines. Integrated economic modelling for greater articulation and impact analysis was also useful. Vertical policy coherence, on the other hand, referred to coordination across levels of government, in which strong and effective institutional coordinating mechanisms were established, partnership fostered, and programme implementation enhanced at the different levels of government.

96. In terms of sustainable financing, Budgeting for the Future allows economies to align their fiscal position with their national plans. In that context, it was important that countries take stock of available financing mechanisms with a diversified financing plan that would include non-traditional sources. It was also crucial to employ outcome-based and participatory budgeting. This implied that countries could take advantage of broader public awareness and stakeholder engagement, including with the business sector, to promote broad-based involvement in identifying financing sources and to support implementation of national programmes. Budget mainstreaming ensures that budget lines were created for specific SDG activities and programmes.

97. As regards monitoring, reporting and accountability, the SDGs will place for greater data demand on Member States, than did the MDGs. However, work was ongoing at the subregional level towards the development of a core set of indicators for the Caribbean. This work was being pursued by CARICOM and ECLAC. Also important is a monitoring framework that meets requirements related to quality, timeliness, disaggregation, and accessibility of data. Accuracy and timeliness would demand the implementation of monitoring and reporting systems, including metadata documentation and use of non-traditional sources such as Big Data. Member states were encourage to design national mechanisms that complemented regional reporting mechanisms to promote coherence and facilitate sharing of best practices.

98. Assessing risks and fostering adaptability required adaptive governance. In particular, risks in the implementation of the SDGs should be continuously assessed and managed at the national, sub-national

and local levels. Scenario planning and stress testing, at the outset and during implementation, should be considered to detect and incorporate emerging issues that could influence goal achievement. To that end, evidence-based planning using economic modelling tools would be crucial.

99. Another tool to support integrated national development planning was the SDG Interaction Mapping, developed by the International Council for Science (ICSU). Given that the SDGs are interlinked and interdependent, the ICSU framework facilitates ongoing enquiry regarding the likely trade-offs, the overlapping of goals, and the need to balance interests and priorities. In the systematic thinking advanced by ICSU, a seven point scale of SDG interaction was taken into consideration⁷, with a goal scoring mechanism that summarizes the influence of one goal or target on another. In the process of analysing the interlinkages between the SDGs it is also important to consider whether the interaction was reversible, uni-or-bi-directional. This helps in assessing the strength of the interaction and the level of certainty of the process.

100. A third tool, iSDG, developed by the Millennium Institute, was aimed at simulating economy-wide modelling. An integrated planning tool for the whole economy, it includes a new generation Threshold 21 model and was based on the CGE modelling approach. iSDG simulates the likely impact of policies on the SDGs, trends in SDGs until 2030 or 2050, and also permits joint simulation of combined impacts of interventions. It covers all 17 Goals and some 78 SDG indicators.

101. Notwithstanding the costs associated with the acquisition of the tools, effective development planning had to be evidenced-based, and the use of tools, such as those identified, within integrated national development planning greatly aids in decision-making, and there is scope for the private sector to partner in that process. The creation of a statistical institute at the subregional level was also seen as an effective way of providing support to Member States. Moreover, within the context of the ECLAC-GIZ project, Member States could request technical assistance from ECLAC in analysing the variety of tools and models that could be of benefit to their respective national priorities.

Threshold 21

102. Threshold 21, a computer simulation tool based on systems dynamics methodology, was used by the Planning Institute of Jamaica. This tool was the result of decades of research and application, and was designed to support comprehensive, integrated, long-term national development planning.

103. The features of T21 include: transparency; as equations, assumptions and variables that influence outcome are easily accessible and identifiable. The tool also facilitates participation and consultation by identifying possible opportunities and threats under different policy scenarios and projected economic, social and environment indicators. Another added value of that tool is that it is customizable, and could incorporate modules unique to a specific country.

104. In terms of the national planning process, T21 could contribute by facilitating stakeholder consultations and informing strategy documents that addressed sectoral interests, as well as evaluating social intervention strategies. It also produces data and analyses for international negotiations and measured progress made towards the implementation of national goals.

105. One of the challenges with tools such as T21 for the Caribbean region, is the amount of data that is required to facilitate accurate forecasting and planning. Administrative data is available, however,

⁷ The seven steps of the systematic thinking were: Cancelling, Counter-Action, Constraining, Consistent, Enabling, Reinforcing, and Indivisible.

environmental data, for example, is almost non-existent. Moreover, planning tools had to be customized to the specific needs of countries. In Jamaica, staff received training in order to develop their own T21 model. As a result, T21 helped Jamaica to implement a long term, comprehensive and integrated planning model, and among other things, facilitated the comparison of different policy scenarios, as well as incorporated emerging issues into the planning process. Each country should, therefore, evaluate their needs to see what works better in their context.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 5

- i. The integrated and targeted approach to national development planning facilitated an easier transition to the implementation of the SDGs.
- ii. Tools were critical to achieving identified goals in the national development plan. The correct choice of tools, therefore, will depend on the specific needs of countries for integrated and data-driven policy planning. There are methodologies that could be customised for individual country circumstances.
- iii. The establishment of a Caribbean Statistical Institute could provide support to Caribbean countries, particularly given the high costs associated with the acquisition of the tools required for effective, evidence-based, integrated, and development planning.

Plenary Session 6: Tools and initiatives for statistical capacity building

106. The Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean moderated the sixth panel discussion. The discussants were the Director of the Income Statistics Division of Statistics Canada, the Programme Specialist of the Economic Empowerment and Statistics Unit of the UN WOMEN Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, and the Director of the Data Ecosystem Development Unit of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. The Panel provided an overview of ongoing initiatives for statistical capacity building in the Caribbean.

Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean

107. The Director of the Income Statistics Division informed the meeting about a seven-year capacity building project (March 2015 to March 2022) funded by the Government of Canada, ‘Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC),’ benefitting 14 Member States of CARICOM. The project encompassed four components: System of National Accounts; Business Survey Infrastructure; Household Survey Infrastructure; and Communication and Dissemination.

108. The Project was designed to enable countries to report on the SDGs by building capacity in survey-taking, access to administrative data, compilation and analysis, and dissemination and communication. The expected outcomes of the project are to increase knowledge and capacity to use internationally recognised tools for household surveys. To that end, the focus is on statistical capacity building, in order to achieve sustainable outcomes and outputs. Utilizing a ‘learning by doing’ approach, the Project would make regional tools and methods available to countries to build the capacity of national statistical systems. It would also be driven by the needs of the beneficiaries, and as such, maintain constant collaboration with CARICOM and the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators

109. The Programme Specialist of UN-Women described the uneven availability of gender statistics across the subregion. Some of the identified reasons included limited financial, human and institutional capacity. Notwithstanding the reporting requirements of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing+20 reports continued to highlight the constraints of ineffective gender information systems, particularly in data capture and monitoring. Furthermore, although administrative data on gender existed, it was not consistently analyzed or disseminated. As a result, the capacity of CARICOM Member States to identify socioeconomic gender gaps; assess and track progress on gender equality; and develop evidence-based, gender-responsive policies and programmes to address gender-based disparities, was compromised.

110. The CARICOM/UNSD project ‘Strengthening Capacity in Social/Gender and Environment Statistics for Conference Follow-up’ served as the foundation work in the area of gender statistics, and established core social/gender indicators to be produced by all CARICOM countries. The outcome of that initiative was the formulation of a CARICOM Programme of sustained capacity building in the collection, and compilation of those indicators. Based on the lessons learned from these previous initiatives, a set of indicators, the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators were developed, parallel to the Global Set of Minimum Gender Indicators to identify, assess, measure and track the persistent gender equality concerns and disparities across the CARICOM region, in accordance with the SDGs.

111. The CARICOM GEI consisted of a minimum core of set of 25 gender indicators. Though, Member States were encouraged to measure the full set of 52 Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, it was acknowledged that the CARICOM GEI corresponded to the SDG framework and included most of the indicators that were relevant to the Caribbean context.

112. The major gender data gaps in the Caribbean were related to unpaid care work, as most CARICOM countries had not undertaken a time use survey. Regarding the issue of reproductive health, most CARICOM countries, particularly within the OECS, had not fielded Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)⁸ or Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Finally, as regards data on violence against women and girls, with the exception of Jamaica, which had conducted a GBV Prevalence Survey, and Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad, who were expected to conduct the survey between 2017 to 2018, most CARICOM countries did not have violence against women prevalence data.

113. Notwithstanding these challenges, some progress has been recorded. For example, in October 2016, a National User-Producer Dialogue on Gender Statistics was conducted using the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators to Measure Progress on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Also, a High Level Policy Dialogue on Gender Statistic was organised in October 2016. At the country level, Dominica launched a publication on Gender Equality Indicators, which provides data on almost all the 52 Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators. Ultimately, the CARICOM GEI was recommended as integral to standard country lists for SDG reporting, where the needs of women and men are equitably addressed to foster their development.

114. Within that context, UN-Women and CARICOM will support the identification and monitoring of gender equality priorities and national development planning. Moreover, UN-Women partnered with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Global Women’s Institute based in George Washington University in DC, to facilitate technical support for the training of enumerators before to go into the field to conduct surveys on violence against women.

Data Roadmaps and Toolbox

115. The Director of the Data Ecosystem Development of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) affirmed that SDG implementation would demand a large amount of data,

⁸ Within the OECS, Saint Lucia was the only country that fielded the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

which at times are unavailable, static, or not disaggregated. In addition to poor data quality and major data gaps, the absence of frequent data on gender and poverty posed a challenge to countries in measuring their progress in reducing poverty. He introduced, Data2X which had identified 28 gender data gaps across five domains: health, education, economic opportunities and political participation.

116. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) worked with multiple stakeholders to create an Earth Observation Data system that relied on Citizen-generated data. They were also preparing Data Roadmaps for Sustainable Development to support countries at national and sub-national levels to develop and implement government and multi-stakeholder data for harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the SDGs and local priorities articulated in national plans. Country data roadmaps for sustainable development were therefore action plans with short and long-term goals for addressing specific data needs and priorities for SDG implementation. The Roadmaps were ideally developed by governments according to their local contexts and priorities since they aimed to be locally led and owned.

117. Other notable features of the Data4SDGs Toolbox, which targeted supporting Member States in filling data gaps more efficiently, frequently and cost effectively, included data for actions, official statistics for SDGs, and the institutional, financial and capacity foundation. The Toolbox provided real-time, dynamic, disaggregated data in an innovative approach to solve problems. It could also be adapted, based on further learning through national workshops and expert feedback, and was intended to provide a set of resources, some of which were already available through partner organisations, to support countries and subnational units in their SDG roadmap process.

118. It was reported that several countries in Latin America had implemented these data roadmaps, including Colombia and Mexico. Their common challenge was measuring new thematic areas, including, for example, the SDGs on consumption/production, climate change, oceans, peace and service delivery; data disaggregation, strengthening administrative records, access to news data sources; strengthening institutional cooperation and coordination; national and local capacity building; multi-stakeholder partnership; better data sharing and engaging with the private sector.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 6

- i. Outreach activities to promote programmes and employment opportunities, including for youth, within the fields of statistics and data sciences are urgently needed. Programmes at university levels and recruitment programmes have to be enhanced to generate a stronger pool of statisticians to increase institutional capacities.
- ii. The CARICOM Gender Equality Index (GEI) was recommended as an integral component to the standard country lists for SDG reporting, particularly given the major gender data gaps that existed in the Caribbean.

Plenary Session 7: Meeting the data demands for SDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean

119. The seventh panel discussion was moderated by the Senior Fellow of SALISES, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (UWI Mona). The discussants were the Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the Chief of the Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit of ECLAC, Director of Research, Design, and Evaluation of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, and the Deputy Director of Corporate Planning of the Caribbean Development Bank. The Panel explored strategies for fulfilling the data demands required for SDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean.

An assessment of the capacity of Caribbean countries to produce SDG indicators

120. Following-up on the Declaration and Resolution of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC of 2015, a Statistical Coordinating Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 was proposed aimed at coordinating the process of preparing and implementing regional indicators and to build relevant capacities, in coordination with IAEG-SDG and HLG for Partnership Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics. In addition, the Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean reported that ECLAC had commissioned an assessment of the capacity of Caribbean countries to produce SDG indicators. The instrument for that assessment, which was sent to 43 Member States and Associate Members in Latin America and the Caribbean, was aimed at assessing country readiness related to the production of each of the SDG indicators on the global list, including data sources, availability of and access to information to produce the indicator, levels of disaggregation, periodicity of data collection and statistical results dissemination, and causes of data gaps. The Coordinator indicated that, the results of the assessment were intended to provide a framework for delivering technical cooperation related to SDG measurement.

121. The preliminary results of the survey revealed that 29 countries had designated a focal point; 20 countries completed the questionnaire, including 8 countries from the Caribbean region, 14 countries reported that they strengthened their statistical capacities, and 14 countries requested the extension of the deadline to answer the questionnaire.

122. Notwithstanding the preliminary nature of the results, some important challenges and capacity constraints regarding the absence of an internationally agreed methodology were identified. Among those were challenges and constraints associated with the lack of an agreed definition of indicators at the national level; the need for special surveys to produce indicator data; the lack of financial resources to generate indicators on a regular basis, and the lack of technical capacity and other resources to generate indicators. Further, the irregular and non-systemic data collection, as well as the lack of disaggregated data, particularly in terms of age, disability, geographic location, migration status, income, race and ethnicity remained important concerns for the subregion.

123. Member States and Associate Member Countries were encouraged to complete the questionnaire to facilitate a fuller understanding of the needs of the region regarding the demands for data for SDG monitoring and reporting. A comprehensive analysis of the assessment will be conducted by ECLAC, which should reveal key data gaps for each indicator. The results of the assessment will be processed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, so that appropriate methodologies for the construction of indicators could be developed, and traditional and non-traditional data sources identified. Finally, the assessment was expected to reveal good practices that could contribute to enhanced knowledge exchange and provide the context for delivering technical cooperation to strengthen capacity.

Transforming the NSOs to respond to the 2030 Agenda in the framework of the Statistical Conference for the Americas

124. The Chief of the Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit of ECLAC headquarters in Santiago reported that the Global Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics and the subsequent Forty-sixth (2015) and Forty-seventh (2016) Sessions of the Statistical Commission set the context for the modernizing and strengthening of national, regional and global statistical systems. In particular, the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, which shared a mutually reinforcing framework with the Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, sought to also promote and advance, through collaboration, a common vision, strategic areas, objectives and key actions to enable

international and regional cross fertilization and synergy to facilitate an adequate response to the increased demand for data for SDG monitoring.

125. In that context, ECLAC recognized the need to modernize its working methods, including by expanding its coverage in the areas of Big Data, environmental statistics, and the environmental big push. Further, several conferences and capacity building initiatives were convened which focused on integrating and modernising statistical systems, and tailored the collaborative initiative for a Transformative Agenda to regional contexts and expectations.

126. As part of its support for Caribbean Member States, ECLAC took note of the endorsement by the CARICOM Heads of Government of the Caribbean Roadmap. That Roadmap, with its key actions in the five thematic areas embedded in the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean,⁹ was subsequently submitted as a background document to the Forty-eighth Session (2017) of the Statistical Commission¹⁰ in September 2016.

127. The main actions in the Caribbean roadmap for the Transformative Agenda regarding coordination were to strengthen the NSSs and enhance the key coordinating and leadership role of the NSOs through endorsement at the highest level. The establishment of new institutional mechanisms and initiatives that made use of existing forum/models for facilitating monitoring and reporting on the modernization and transformation processes were also recommended. In terms of communication, the Roadmap included strategies to develop and implement educational programmes to increase data literacy, provide statistical products as feedback to the data communities, and empower institutions and individuals to use statistics effectively in their own decisions. As regards the key action of integration, the Roadmap included mechanisms to strengthen basic data sources, like household surveys, business and other economic surveys, administrative records, population and housing census, civil registration, vital statistics and the ICP.

128. The Roadmap also articulated an approach for building strategic relationships with non-survey sources, including Big Data providers, incorporation of geospatial data; as well as implementing standards methods, including the 2008 SNA, the BPM6, ISIC Rev4, Generalised Statistical Business Process Model and Quality Assurance frameworks. In the key action area of modernisation, the Roadmap recommended supporting the development and application of the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) Mainstream SDMX, and harnessing the innovative and transformational power of ICT and mobile devices for georeferenced data collection and data visualization, within the context of open data. Finally, concerning capacity-building, the Roadmap suggested a strategic programme on training and capacity building, and called for the development of closer collaboration with regional universities to enable short-term training in statistics, and the delivery of training programmes in non-technical areas, such as, change management and innovative technology. The Roadmap also referenced the need to undertake a gap analysis to determine the skills and competencies required to sustain the current and planned programs.

129. Ultimately, the Roadmap provided the context for the establishment of a jointly coordinated CARICOM/ECLAC Caribbean Group on the Transformation Agenda for Official Statistics in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Such a group would be the first one in the Statistical Commission for the Americas with both thematic and geographic focus.

⁹ The Caribbean Roadmap was endorsed by the Thirty-Seventh Regular meeting of the Heads of Government of CARICOM (Georgetown, Guyana, July 2016).

¹⁰ E/CN/3/2017/5.

Administrative data sources: Untapped repositories of data for generating SDG indicators

130. The Director of the Research, Design and Evaluation of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica suggested that monitoring the SDGs, with its global and broader sector coverage, required a new paradigm, compared with the previous demands of the MDGs. While the MDGs had 8 goals, 21 targets, and 60 indicators, the SDGs consist of 17 goals, 169 targets, and 230 indicators. Furthermore, the MDGs had a national level disaggregation, while the SDGs, with its focus to ‘leave no one behind,’ require more disaggregated data. Finally, while financing for the MDGs was largely donor financed, the SDGs mainly rely on domestic resource mobilisation and new sources of financing. To that end, in terms of monitoring mechanisms, data still remain a challenge, and monitoring the SDGs is projected to cost three billion US dollars per year.

131. Several challenges are associated with monitoring the SDGs. They include the decentralized and often uncoordinated functioning of the NSS; exponential increases in the demand for statistics from the NSS; reduced access to donor funding for statistics; significantly under-funded and under-resourced producers of Official Statistics; and low technical capacity and/or inability to retain technical capacity within the NSS. The basic requirements for effective monitoring of the SDGs include increased funding and resources; improved technical capacity; introduction of new actors from the private sector, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and civil society; as well as the use of alternative data sources, for example, Big Data, satellite imagery, administrative data, among others ; and the integration of those new data with traditional data to produce high-quality information that is more detailed, timely and relevant.

132. Given the fundamental challenge associated with data, and its limited availability for monitoring, the use of administrative data and other forms of non-traditional data offered an important response. For the most part, there was inadequate access to and use of administrative data for statistical purposes. However, in Cuba, administrative data had become a main source of information, but its use required additional training in order to prepare statisticians, and underscored the need to develop creative thinking in the process of transformation in the implementation of the SDGs.

133. Administrative data is potentially easier to collect and is used for direct tabulation; replacement of data collection, editing and imputation; the development of survey frames; and also for indirect use in estimation and survey evaluation. Government departments and other organizations collect that type of data as part of registration, transaction, or other record keeping activities, usually during the delivery of services, which include in custom records, social security data, tax records, crime reports, housing data and permits and sanction information. Among the attractive benefits associated with the use of administrative data are the lower costs and lower burden for respondents; higher quality; and the new and more frequent or detailed data products that are possible, such as being able to easily capture data on the situation of persons with disability.

134. Moreover, while administrative data represent a largely untapped resource for official statistics and for the monitoring of the SDGs, it is not always cheaper than traditional surveys. For example, there are costs associated with acquiring the data and setting up the systems to store, process and manage the data. Further, there are other challenges associated with using administrative data for statistical purposes. Administrative units are sometimes different from statistical units; non-standard classification systems are used to categorize data; the risk of missing data is increased, given that the purpose for data collection was not informed by statistical data quality and completeness requirements; and generally the level or the lack of quality control over the data. Ultimately, given the inherent deficiencies, administrative data should not be viewed as a panacea for monitoring the SDGs, Its use thus require caution and adjustment, where necessary.

135. Notwithstanding those challenges, some SDG indicators could be computed from administrative data. Examples include, 1.a.2 on the proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection); 2.4.1 on the proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture; 3.2.1 on under-five mortality rate; 3.6.1 on death rate due to road traffic injuries; 4.c.1 on the proportion of teachers in pre-primary, primary and lower secondary; 5.5.1 on the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments; 8.8.1 on the frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status; 11.5.1 on the number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people; 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age; and 17.1.1 on the proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes.

136. As a good practice for the effective use of administrative data, a Roadmap to its use should begin with the identification of an Administrative Data Coordinator. The next step would be to review the legislation and to create an inventory of existing administrative sources. After that, a policy and directives for the use (access, privacy and security) should be articulated. Finally, strategic collaboration should be established with data providers and new administrative data sources identified. Regardless of whether administrative data had potential, it was important to formalise it with agreements and to assess the fitness for use. Based on that a system should be created to incorporate the administrative data into programmes and to manage its use.

The role of development banks in building statistical capacity in the Caribbean

137. The Deputy Director of the Corporate Planning, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) described the support being provided by the Bank towards SDG implementation and the development of a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean (including a baseline assessment) which build on the lessons from the Caribbean specific MDG targets. The CDB also developed programmes to strengthen the National Statistical Systems, monitoring and reporting on SDGs.

138. Some of the main challenges noted in the Caribbean included the lack of comprehensive data sets, especially on social and environmental issues, as well as data of limited accuracy, timeliness and consistency. The region also faced inadequate structure and human resource capacity of its national statistical systems and there was a lack of governance and institutionalisation in terms of who was leading the process of measuring the progress related to the SDGs. Strengthening the institutional framework required developing data compacts in Member States with an ecosystem approach. Another issue was that while recognizing that the specific needs and development challenges of Caribbean countries should be included in regional reporting mechanisms, and there was concern that there was limited scope to identify the Caribbean subregion within the broader context of the Latin America and Caribbean coverage and reporting. Weak and outdated legislative frameworks and the difficulty in tracking development results were also identified as concerns, as well as the weakness of the evidence-based decision making framework in the region.

139. In order to support Caribbean countries, multilateral development banks were therefore viewed as important providers of financing and policy advice to countries. The CDB, in particular, is a significant source of financing for statistical capacity building among its borrowing member States while other Multilateral Development Banks focus on investment and project-based lending.

140. The CDB supported countries in strengthening their national statistical systems through collaboration programmes with regional institutions, such as the CARICOM Statistical Programme, the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, and the OECS Secretariat. Thus, given the importance of the regional approach, coordination with other development partners to avoid duplication of effort was crucial, as well as support for policy and institutional development that promoted sustainability.

141. The CDB had previously provided support for Country Poverty Assessments (since 1995) and the Enhanced Country Poverty Assessments (2016), the design and implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies, the development of Caribbean-specific MDGs, as well as demographic analysis training for the 2010 census. Thus notwithstanding, in the future, support and coordination among the development partners is required for the implementation of the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean, the Regional Census Strategy - The 2020 Census Round, the ‘SDGInfo’ software for dissemination, as well as trainings of statisticians as data scientists to enable the exploitation of the latest IT technology and Big Data.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 7

- i. Member States and Associate Member countries were encouraged to complete the ECLAC questionnaire on the assessment of the capacity of countries to produce SDG indicators. The assessment would facilitate a fuller understanding of the needs of the region regarding the demands for data for SDG monitoring and reporting.
- ii. Administrative data, a largely untapped, low-cost resource for official statistics and for monitoring of the SDGs, is potentially easier to collect and used for direct tabulation, imputation, and development of survey frames, and indirectly in estimation and survey evaluation. Given the fundamental challenge associated with data and its availability, the use of administrative data and other forms of non-traditional data represents an important response.
- iii. The development of data compacts is a critical step in strengthening the institutional framework for SDG monitoring and reporting. That called for the review and update of weak and outdated legislative frameworks and strengthening evidence-based decision-making frameworks within the region.
- iv. Support and coordination is required from the development partners, including for the implementation of the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean, the Regional Census Strategy (the 2020 Census Round), the SDGInfo software for dissemination, and the training of statisticians as data scientists to enable the leveraging of IT and Big Data for development planning.

Plenary Session 8: Framework for coordination of inter-agency support for SDG implementation in the Caribbean

ECLAC

142. The Deputy Chief of Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC moderated the eighth panel discussion. The primary discussants were the Representative of UNFPA Jamaica and the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. The Panel explored the opportunities and framework for coordinated inter-agency support for SDG implementation.

143. The Deputy Chief of Office of the Executive Secretary advised that ECLAC would coordinate an annual report to be presented to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Other UN agencies would contribute to that process, providing both inputs for the annual report, as well as submitting specific reports from their respective areas of work for presentation to the Forum. To support that process in a coherent manner, ECLAC would rely on its regular convening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of the UN Development System (UNDS) in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the thematic level, the inter-governmental subsidiary bodies of ECLAC will also work closely with their relevant counterparts from the UNDS.

UNFPA

144. An early illustration of that collaboration was the partnership between ECLAC and UNFPA to convene an inter-agency meeting in Jamaica on 13 February 2017 to address the specific coordination and tasks that will be required for the SDGs framework in the Caribbean subregion. According to the Representative of UNFPA Jamaica, the UN system had provided support to Member States in several ways, including the collection of data, as well as other areas related to quality assurance, data harmonization and capacity building. The UN system recognized that countries in the Caribbean subregion had different experiences and challenges with data processes. However, the common needs shared by several countries represented opportunities for coordinated intervention by the UN system. Some of those included assisting countries in being more cost effective in collecting data, and in mapping the data collected by governments that could be of value in setting baselines for various indicators and targets. As a result, this may reduce the need for investment in new systems to collate data for baselines.

145. As regards the coordination framework within the UN system, most of the agencies with the exception of ECLAC were part of the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF). Moreover, the Caribbean was the second subregion to complete a Regional Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, which was the key framework for coordination for the United Nations in the Caribbean. That Framework catalogued how the UN supports Member States at the regional and national levels. The MSDF will be reported on biannually to national governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders and that report will present the actual results of the objectives of the MSDF and highlight the corrective measures that will have to be taken. While the MSDF did not cover the totality of the SDGs, it captured significant UN support to countries in achieving them.

ECLAC

146. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean highlighted that UN inter-agency cooperation must continue in order to offer an arrangement that would provide optimum support to Member States in the region. In that regard, the reporting framework of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which included coverage for all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, provided a tremendous opportunity for a more balanced overview of the entire region. The Caribbean could be better showcased through their own subregional reporting mechanism and thus would feed into the broader Latin America and Caribbean report. The experience of the Caribbean could therefore be reflected in a more meaningful manner.

147. To that end, the relationship between the UN and the Member States had to be symbiotic, and ECLAC wanted to assist countries of the subregion in having their voices heard. In particular, since reporting on the SDGs is a country-driven process, and the regional reports that will be prepared could only be completed once countries provided the information, ECLAC had a vested interest in ensuring that the countries in the subregion are able to complete their national reports. Thus, there is a need to engage Member States in mining the required data to ensure that there is a regional report that presents the Caribbean situation.

148. ECLAC will, therefore, launch two projects to provide capacity building through national workshops for twelve countries in 2017 and 2018. The first project funded by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), would include the conduct of workshops and the provision of technical support to six countries in 2017 to support capacity needs, both in terms of statistics, as well as in the establishment of an institutional framework to facilitate the vertical and horizontal policy coherence that would be important for reporting on the SDGs.

149. The British Virgin Islands acknowledged that they were behind in developing their national plan and welcomed the assistance of ECLAC to guide them in that process. Pending formal endorsement from their capital, the BVI therefore signalled their interest in becoming one of the six pilot countries to be a beneficiary of this intervention.

150. ECLAC recognized that there was a critical need to develop a mechanism that allowed for fuller engagement between Member countries and the broader UN System. That process was dynamic and continuing, and it was projected that in May 2017 at the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, Member States and Associate Members would receive information on an inter-agency reporting mechanism to assist the countries in their reporting requirements.

Other United Nations Agencies

151. Specific UN agencies have been designated custodians of individual SDG indicators, based on their substantive mandate. There is the need, therefore, for custodian agencies to coordinate support for Member States in producing and reporting data for the SDG indicators at the national level.

152. The UN custodian agencies played a critical role in supporting Member States to implement the SDG Framework. In fact, the experience of FAO was that the mechanism for reporting at the global level was similar to the previous MDG reporting whereby countries reported data to the custodian agencies. Custodian agencies then calculated and published the indicators for those countries that lacked the capacity to generate the indicators. The challenge, however, was that within the SDG Framework, countries rather than agencies are required to report, with the UN agencies acting as data custodians.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 8

- i. Reporting on the SDGs is country driven. As the Secretariat for the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC had a vested interest in ensuring that the countries in the subregion are able to complete their national reports. To that end, ECLAC was launching two projects in 2017 and 2018 to provide capacity building through national workshops for twelve countries (six each year) in statistics and the establishment of institutional framework for vertical and horizontal policy coherence.
- ii. Subject to formal endorsement from their capital, the British Virgin Islands signalled their interest to be one of the pilot countries to receive technical support in the 2017 project.
- iii. United Nations custodian agencies played a critical role in supporting Member States through capacity building. Specifically, as the custodian of data that are necessary for national reporting, UN agencies need to coordinate with Member States to ensure accurate regional and subregional reporting.

Plenary Session 9: Exchange of views towards core indicators for monitoring implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean

153. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment of Dominica moderated the ninth panel discussion. The discussants were the Chief Statistician of the Statistical Office of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Chief Statistician of the Anguilla Statistics Department of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Investment and Commerce. The Panel exchanged views on the establishment of core indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean.

154. The Permanent Secretary, in addition to the previously identified constraints with data in the region, noted that there were other issues that would challenge the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These included vulnerability to climate change and foreign debt; structural imbalances and the impact of limited diversification of the productive sector; and increased unemployment. Caribbean SIDS are ecologically fragile and vulnerable. They face special challenges in planning for and implementing the SDGs, and would be further constrained if the cooperation and assistance from the international community are not forth coming.

155. The meeting took note of activities such as the subregional consultation and Training on the Development of a set of Core Indicators for monitoring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway, convened in December 2016 (a collaborative initiative of CARICOM, ECLAC and UNDESA), which was intended to help countries optimize their engagement within the global agenda. That meeting was aimed at providing support to Caribbean SIDS in identifying from among the Tier I/II global SDG indicators, a minimum core set to monitor implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean, as recommended by the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).

The need for a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean

156. The Chief Statistician of the Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, affirmed that there was a clear need for a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean. She highlighted challenges that countries would likely face in monitoring and measuring the SDGs.

Reference was made to the ongoing work of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) in advancing the data requirements for Agenda 2030. From the SCCS review, it was concluded that the set of MDGs never achieved full coverage in the CARICOM region. Given the broader scope of indicators under the SDG framework, there was concern that the CARICOM region could witness a lower coverage than was attained under the MDGs. To that end, the SCCS advocated for a dual set approach; one comprising all of the goals, targets and indicators and the other consisting of a core set that is manageable.

157. It was highlighted that while administrative data could be used to fill some data gaps, countries would still need to depend on the conduct of surveys to obtain much of the data needed for reporting. Such surveys are costly, and their frequency could result in survey fatigue. Many of the NSOs are also small and/or poorly staffed and faced high turnover rates. There is constant need for staff training. With the expanded coverage of the SDGs, the challenge of limited human resources, will further undermine the ability of countries to report.

158. The countries were encouraged to play their individual and collective roles in support of effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs by ensuring that the SDGs, in particular the Plan of Action for implementation of the strategy pertaining to SDGs, was effected. They were also encouraged to work on selecting the core set of indicators that could be produced on a sustained basis, while being cognizant of the challenges associated with implementing and achieving the objectives of the SDGs.

The development for a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean

159. The Chief Statistician of the Anguilla Statistics Department suggested that the criteria for selecting the minimum core should be based on national priorities. The question of whether or not the data was currently available in the national statistical system was not to be a determining factor in

developing the core set of indicators from among the Tier I/II/III global SDG indicators.¹¹ The selection process of core indicators require national level input.

160. In Grenada, for example, national agencies had not finalized their national indicators. The country was, therefore challenged to advance regional indicators, as they were still in the process of finalizing their national indicator framework, based on national priorities.

161. In most cases, the methodology for Tier III indicators would have to be determined rather than strengthened. Indeed, some of Tier III indicators were actually “placeholders” and had not been assigned a custodian agency to determine a methodology. No work had therefore yet been done on these indicators. Tier III indicators were therefore not being recommended for inclusion in a Caribbean core set of indicators at this stage.

162. The experience of Cuba was instructive; they used other information processes, like those on population and development and gender that had already developed core indicators for the region. There was an opportunity to learn from previous best practices, while avoiding duplication of effort. Countries should also not lose sight of the need to align their national development goals and priorities with the SDGs. For example, taking into consideration the issues that were of concern to UN-WOMEN, the process of articulating a core set of indicators provided an opportunity to restart the discussion on critical policy documents, such as national gender polices which are either not approved by Governments or were not in existence.

163. Ultimately, the process of selecting the core set of indicators required further discussions. During the initial stages, the choice of indicators may be dynamic and fluid, given shifts in national priorities. To facilitate that process, ECLAC has established two working groups to assess the availability of data in both Latin America and the Caribbean, and those groups would work in close collaboration with CARICOM. This Symposium was not intended to endorse a final list of indicators, but rather to advance the process, through consultation with various actors, including custodian agencies. There continued to be need for more collaboration with and between statisticians and policy makers, as well as other stakeholders, particularly within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

Summary of Strategic Themes from Plenary Session 9

- i. The SDGs could serve as a dynamic game changer, if the gains that were realized with the MDGs could be replicated. Countries needed to identify critical capacity constraints and requirements that were immediately required to enable them to produce relevant indicators. In particular, data gaps have to be filled as the region tries to achieve the SDGs and improve the supporting governance structures.
- ii. The process of selecting the core set of indicators requires further discussion. Greater collaboration among statisticians, policy makers and other stakeholders within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would therefore be required.

¹¹ Tier I indicators: conceptually clear, with established methodology and standards; data is available and regularly produced by countries. Tier II indicators: conceptually clear, with established methodology and standards; data is not readily available, and is not regularly produced by countries. Tier III indicators: no established methodology and standards or methodology and standards are being tested and developed.

Plenary Session 10: Open sessions 1 and 2: Towards a core set of indicators for SDGs

164. Participants reviewed the goals and targets that are part of the draft core set of indicators. Some indicators were confirmed to be core without much debate but others needed further elaboration. The proposed list would be circulated to Member States by ECLAC for comments.

3. Closing remarks

165. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean expressed appreciation to the participants for their substantial contributions to the Symposium and for the support provided by the Governments of Jamaica and Germany.

166. The Symposium was seen as a “wake up call” for SDG implementation in the Caribbean. She encourage Member States to speak with one voice and to remain actively engaged in the global and regional processes related to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

167. She advised the meeting that, the Symposium marked the beginning of a series of national workshops in the Caribbean. The Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was scheduled to take place in April 2017. Also, a follow-up workshop was scheduled for May 2017 in Port of Spain within the framework of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development Coordination Committee (CDCC). At that workshop, ECLAC expected to present the coordination arrangement for the provision of technical assistance and cooperation to countries to support mainstreaming process.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

- Amb. Colin Murdoch, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

THE BAHAMAS

- Hellen Mukiri-Smith, Consultant, Economic Development and Planning Unit, Office of the Prime Minister

BARBADOS

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

BELIZE

- Carlos Pol, Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum

CUBA

- H.E. Bernardo Guancho Hernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Jamaica
- Yaima de Armas, Third Secretary, Multilateral Affairs Specialist, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DOMINICA

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Elibeth López Parra, Vice Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Economics, Planning and Development

GRENADA

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

GUYANA

- Sonya Roopnauth, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

JAMAICA

- Amb. Sheila Sealey Monteith, Under Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Sharon J. Miller, Director, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Deniese Sealey, Assistant Director, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Farrah Brown, Assistant Director (a.i.), Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Andrea Dubidad-Dixon, Deputy Director (a.i.), Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Sherrick Matthews, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

- Vonroy Rochester, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Lasheree Senior, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Rashaun Watson, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- Lavern Queeley, Director, Economic Affairs and Public Sector Investment Planning, Ministry of Sustainable Development

SAINT LUCIA

- Cecil Charles, Economist, Department of Finance

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

- Louise Tash, Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- H.E. Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
- Meera Ramesar, Director (a.i.), Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Socioeconomic Policy Planning Division

B. Associate members

ANGUILLA

- Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin, Chief Statistician, Anguilla Statistics Department
- Sanford Richardson, Commissioner, Department of Social Development

ARUBA

- Maria Loreto Pita, Director of the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry
- Jocelyne Croes, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

- Elvia Smith-Maduro, Deputy Secretary, Premier's Office and Assistant to Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer

CURAÇAO

- Luelo Girigorie, Policy Director, Ministry of Economic Development

MONTSERRAT

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

SINT MAARTEN

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

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

- Wayne Biggs Jr., Chief Executive Officer (a.i.), Economic Development Authority

C. Observers

FRANCE

- H.E. Jean-Michel Despax, Ambassador of France in Jamaica

GERMANY

- H.E. Joachim Schmillen, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jamaica and the Bahamas
- Sophie Kömen, Consular Attaché, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jamaica and the Bahamas

SOUTH AFRICA

- Jongikhaya Rabe, First Secretary – Political, South African High Commission

D. United Nations Secretariat

Office of the President of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly

- Amb. Dessima Williams, Special Adviser, Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

E. United Nations programmes and funds

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Elsie Laurence-Chounoune, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Jamaica
- Raynel Martis, Project Manager, Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening for Curaçao, UNDP Curaçao
- Chisa Mikami, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Barbados
- Upul Ranaweera, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, UNDP Jamaica

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Vincent Sweeney, Head, Caribbean Subregional Office, Jamaica
- Alexandra Karekaho, Programme Officer, Caribbean Subregional Office

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Alison Drayton, Director and Resident Representative, UNFPA Caribbean Subregional Office, Jamaica

United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF)

- Mark Connolly, Resident Representative, UNICEF Jamaica / Resident Coordinator (a.i.), UNDP Jamaica

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

- Tonni Ann Brodber, Head of Office (a.i.), UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- Isiuwa Iyahan, Programme Specialist – Economic Empowerment and Statistics, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- Cedriann Martin, Communications Adviser, UNAIDS Jamaica

- Otilia St. Charles, Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) Global Fund Adviser, UNAIDS Jamaica

F. Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Veronica Boero, Regional Statistician, Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO Panama
- Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Subregional Coordinator, FAO Trinidad and Tobago
- Terri Raney, Senior Policy Officer, FAO Trinidad and Tobago
- Gillian Smith, Officer-in-charge, FAO Representation for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Katherine Grigsby, Director and Resident Representative, UNESCO Cluster (Multi-Country) Office for the Caribbean
- Andrea Giselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Cluster (Multi-Country) Office for the Caribbean

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

- Noreen Jack, Representative, PAHO/WHO Regional Office for the Americas
- Prithi Singh, Programme Specialist, Guyana Country Office
- Melanie Thomas, Global Affairs Canada Project Coordinator, Guyana Country Office

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- Cleveland Thomas, Area Representative, ITU Area Office for the Caribbean

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- Owena Beepot Pryce, UPU Regional Project Coordinator- Caribbean

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Jewel Ali, Head of Office / Project Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago Office
- Rukiya Brown, Programme Coordinator, Jamaica Office
- Robert Natiello, Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean and Chief of Mission, Guyana Office

G. Other intergovernmental organizations

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

- Monica La Bennett, Deputy Director, Corporate Planning

Caribbean Postal Union (CPU)

- Loretta Charlemagne, Technical Officer

H. Statistical offices

Statistics Canada (StatCan)

- Tracey Leesti, Director, Income Statistics Division

Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

- Carol Coy, Director-General
- Leesha Delatie-Budair, Director, Research, Design and Evaluation
- Laurice Haye, Statistician
- Amanda Lee, Statistician

Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Gatlin Roberts, Chief Statistician, Statistical Office, Central Planning Division

I. Other institutions**German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)**

- Daniel Fischer, Adviser, Cooperation Programme ECLAC/BMZ-GIZ

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

- Aditya Agrawal, Director, Data Ecosystems

Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)

- Wayne Henry, Director-General
- Nadine Brown, Manager, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning
- Peisha Bryan, Social Sector Specialist, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat
- Stacey Clarke Callum, Programme Manager
- Elizabeth Emmanuel, Programme Director, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat
- Saskia Frater-Smith, Manager, Multilateral Technical Coordination Unit
- Toni-Shae Freckleton, Manager, Population and Health Unit
- Denese McFarlane, Health Specialist
- Hugh Morris, Manager, Modelling Unit, Economic Planning and Research Division
- Stacy-Ann Robinson, Demographer
- Le-Anne Roper, Sustainable Development Planning Officer
- Delores Wade, Senior Project Economist
- Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director-General
- Easton Williams, Director, Social Policy Planning and Research

University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Colette Cunningham-Myrie, Lecturer – Epidemiology, Public Health, Family Medicine, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, Mona Campus
- Aldrie Henry-Lee, Senior Research Fellow, Acting Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Mona Campus
- Michael Witter, Senior Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Mona Campus

J. Other participant

- Winston Butler, Independent Consultant

K. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Giovanni Savio, Chief, Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit
- Romain Zivy, Deputy Chief of Office, Office of the Executive Secretary

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Dale Alexander, Senior Programme Management Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit

Annex II**PROGRAMME****Day 1 - Tuesday 14 February**

- 08:00 – 08:30 **Registration**
- 08:30 – 09:00 **Opening of the symposium**
- Welcome remarks by Ambassador Sheila Sealey Monteith, Under Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica
 - Statement by H.E. Joachim Schmillen, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jamaica and the Bahamas
 - Opening Address by Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
- 09:00 – 10:00 **Understanding the global and regional frameworks for SDG follow-up and review**
- Moderator: H.E. Pernelle Beckles, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
- **Agenda 2030 follow-up and review mechanisms: what is involved?**
Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
 - **An overview of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**
Romain Zivy, Deputy Chief of Office, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC
 - **Positioning to implement the Sustainable Development Goal indicators framework**
Carol Coy, Director-General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Discussion**
- 10:30 – 10:50 *Coffee break*

10:50 – 11:50 **National institutional frameworks for planning and implementing the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway**

Moderator: Ambassador Dessima Williams, Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development Goals, Office of the President of UN General Assembly

- **Finding a home for the SDGs in national implementation strategies**
Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
- **Ensuring national ownership of the SDGs**
Elsie Laurence-Chounoune, PhD, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Jamaica
- **Synergizing the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs**
Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, DSD/UNDESA

11:50 – 12:30 *Discussion*

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 14:30 **The Caribbean experience in mainstreaming the SDGs in existing national development plans**

Moderator: Ambassador Colin Murdoch, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda

- **Barbados: Medium-Term Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 2013-2020**
Patrick McCaskie, Director, Research and Planning Unit, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
- **Belize: Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2016-2019**
Carlos Pol, Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum
- **Jamaica: Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan**
Elizabeth Emmanuel, Programme Director, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, Planning Institute of Jamaica

14:30 – 15:00 **Discussion**

15:00 – 15:15 *Coffee break*

15:15 – 16:00 **The Caribbean experience in integrating from inception the SDGs in new national development plans**

Moderator: Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- **Curacao: National Development Plan Curacao 2015-2030**
Luelo Girigorie, Policy Director, Ministry of Economic Development
- **Guyana: National Development Strategy**
Sonya Roopnauth, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance
- **Saint Lucia: National Vision Plan**
Cecil Charles, Economist, Department of Finance
- **Suriname: National Development Plan 2017-2021**
Reynold Simons, Director, National Planning Office

16:00 – 16:30 **Discussion**

16:30 – 16:45 **Conclusions**

Day 2 - Wednesday 15 February

09:00 – 10:15 **Examining tools for integrated national development planning**

Moderator: Wayne Henry, Director-General, Planning Institute of Jamaica

- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
- Hugh Morris, Manager, Modelling Unit, Economic Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica

10:15 – 10:45 **Discussion**

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00– 12:00	Tools and initiatives for statistical capacity building
	Moderator: Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) Tracey Leesti, Director, Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada • CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Isiuwa Iyahan, Programme Specialist, Economic Empowerment and Statistics, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean • Data Roadmaps and Toolbox Aditya Agrawal, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30– 14:30	Meeting the data demands for SDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean
	Moderator: Michael Witter, Senior Fellow, SALISES, UWI Mona
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the capacity of Caribbean countries to produce SDG indicators Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean • Transforming the NSOs to respond to the 2030 Agenda in the framework of the SCA Giovanni Savio, Chief, Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit, ECLAC • Administrative data sources: untapped repositories of data for generating SDG indicators Leesha Delatie-Budair, Director, Research, Design and Evaluation, Statistical Institute of Jamaica • The role of development banks in building statistical capacity in the Caribbean Monica La Bennett, Deputy Director, Corporate Planning, Caribbean Development Bank
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>

15:15 – 15:45 **Framework for coordination of inter-agency support for SDG implementation in the Caribbean**

Moderator: Romain Zivy, Deputy Chief of Office, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC

- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean ECLAC
- Alison Drayton, Representative, UNFPA

15:45 – 16:15 **Discussion**

16:15 – 16:30 **Conclusions**

Day 3 - Thursday 16 February

08:30 – 09:15 **Exchange of views towards core indicators for monitoring implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean**

Moderator: Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment, Dominica

- **The need for a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean**
Gatlin Roberts, Chief Statistician, Statistical Office, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- **The development of a core set of SDG indicators for the Caribbean**
Lori-Rae Alleyne, Chief Statistician, Anguilla Statistics Department

09:15– 10:45 **Open session 1: Towards a core set of indicators for SDG 1- 8**

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00– 12:30 **Open session 2: Towards a core set of indicators for SDG 9- 16**

12:30 – 13:00 **Closure of symposium**

- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



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