

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Report of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Third Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean



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**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The participants at the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Third Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013) provides a regional framework for public policymaking on population and development issues that States continue to adopt.

2. The meeting recognized that the youth perspective is crucial to addressing population issues such as non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, recognition of the rights of minority groups, and management of migration, both internal and international. Participants reviewed progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and made recommendations intended to further its implementation.

3. The recommendations addressed, firstly, the priority actions in section B of the Montevideo Consensus on the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth. These recommendations covered the need for greater collaboration and coordination among the various actors involved in Youth Policies, programmes and initiatives, as well as improved monitoring and evaluation of progress in their implementation. They addressed key issues for Caribbean youth such as personal development skills, entrepreneurial training, vocational training, career guidance and comprehensive sexuality education; increased youth employment opportunities; participation of young people in policymaking; support for victims of crime, violence and abuse; and the participation of youth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Participants also made recommendations addressing the priority actions in the other sections of the Montevideo Consensus. These recommendations are aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of children, including investment in pre-school education, and protecting children from sexual, physical and emotional abuse. There was also a call for the repeal of discriminatory laws affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and enactment of new laws to deal with homophobic and transphobic abuse. The concerns of older persons in the area of social protection and elder abuse were addressed in addition to intergenerational relations. There were recommendations covering the regulatory and policy environment for sexual and reproductive health and the management of pregnancies. There were also recommendations covering women's underrepresentation in the political sphere; gender-based violence; the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and their children; the rights of indigenous persons; and challenges related to territorial inequalities and migration.

5. Meeting participants expressed their commitment to monitoring and reporting on the continued implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. The full list of recommendations from the meeting appears as annex I of this report.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the meeting

6. The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Third Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean took place as part of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development and was held in Georgetown, Guyana from 24 to 26 July 2018.

2. Attendance

7. The Caribbean Forum was attended by representatives of 12 member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of ECLAC: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Three associate member countries of the CDCC were also represented: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat.

8. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The following United Nations programmes and funds, and specialized agencies were also represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

9. The intergovernmental organizations represented at the meeting were the Organization of American States (OAS), The Commonwealth and Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

10. Other organizations and institutions represented were the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Empowerment Dynamics Ltd, Youth Policy and Social Policy Experts, Guyana Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), I am a Girl Barbados, the National Commission for the Family (NCF) of Guyana, Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP), Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), The MultiCare Youth Foundation, University of Guyana (UG), The University of the West Indies (UWI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Youth Policy Lab.

11. Non-governmental and youth organizations were also represented: the Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA), Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps (CYAs), Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC), Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA), Ikemba 'Strength of the People', National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ), Saint Lucia National Youth Council (SLNYC), The University of the West Indies Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT) and the Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ).

3. Documentation

12. A report on the 'Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: A Review of the Period 2013-2018' was prepared by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and served as the main background document for the meeting.

4. Agenda

13. The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

3. An intergenerational dialogue: what role for older persons in the changing structure of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean?
4. Sexual and reproductive health and gender equality
5. Migration, diaspora and development
6. Consideration and agreement of the recommendations of the meeting
7. Closure of the meeting

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of meeting

14. The opening session was chaired by the CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Guyana. The meeting was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat, who stressed the very successful partnership among a number of institutions, resulting in the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development. He noted that this important Forum was organised to take stock of progress towards the implementation of the commitments under the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, 20 years after its adoption in 1998, and the Montevideo Consensus, 5 years after its adoption. He highlighted the importance of the preparatory work and excellent studies prepared by ECLAC for this meeting, which demonstrate progress in the subregion since the Lisbon Declaration, in the development and implementation of Youth Policies which are rights-based, inclusive, and participatory and which promote accountability.

15. He noted the encouraging fact that nineteen (19) of the twenty (20) member States and associate members of CARICOM have National Youth Policies, while recognizing that more work is needed in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress towards youth development goals and to ensure that policy decisions are based on evidence. He observed that more attention is needed to ensure that policies are gender sensitive and adequately funded so that they can be more impactful. He also highlighted results from the reviews of the Montevideo Consensus and Lisbon Declaration underscoring with important data, the alarming reality that a young person in the Caribbean Region is significantly more likely than an adult to be living in poverty, to be unemployed, and to be affected by crime, violence and abuse. Instabilities in the protective factors of family, school and community, make it even more difficult for vulnerable youth in marginalized circumstances to transition successfully to adulthood, especially in a global context where more education and training are required of youth to be competitive and employable. He underscored the need for decisive action at the highest level of Caribbean governments to mainstream youth development across all sectors, in budgeting and in national development planning, as well as the need to strengthen Departments of Youth Affairs and national and regional youth governance structures. He also referred to the need to devise a coordinated regional mechanism for more effective participation and engagement with youth on the many international development frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Minister of Social Cohesion of Guyana welcomed participants and spoke of his enthusiasm for topics such as access to appropriate education and learning; youth political and civic participation; intergenerational dialogues; sexual and reproductive health and gender equality that would be discussed at the Forum. He expressed a desire to see a focus on the rural youth in Caribbean society.

17. The Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of Suriname stated that effective youth participation is also about creating opportunities for young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes at all levels of society. She mentioned that this will require political will and financial commitment from the leadership of CARICOM. She declared her willingness to champion the conclusions and recommendations coming out of the meeting at the regional level. She also stated that she looked forward to the design of a Caribbean Youth Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim to support Member States and youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, the Government of Suriname proposed to CARICOM Heads of Government the establishment of a CARICOM Champion for Youth Development Fund to which Suriname contributed USD 50,000. She informed the participants that the fund contributed to the hosting of this important gathering and appealed to governments and institutions at the Forum to find appropriate ways to finance youth development in a sustained manner.

18. The Vice-President (Operations), Caribbean Development Bank, stated that the event presented an opportune moment to turn attention to the youth of the Caribbean, to examine and evaluate Youth Policies and Programmes in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the broader frameworks, platforms and agreements for youth in the subregion. She shared some highlights of investments made by CDB and work in youth development and proposed opportunities for stakeholders and partners to collaborate towards unlocking the potential of Caribbean youth. She made reference to the major areas of concern for youth development in the subregion and highlighted education and training as a major priority for the Bank.

19. CDB has invested over USD 1 billion in the area of youth and now boasts a cadre of experienced, dedicated and committed education professionals who are making significant contributions at both the national and regional levels. Between 2004 and 2016, the Bank provided more than USD 200 million for regional and national education and training projects. Within recent times the Vice-President mentioned that CDB Human Resource Development (HRD) programme has placed greater emphasis on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), non-formal education and life skills for the 15-24 age range. In parallel, the Bank has also been building on its strong track record of supporting enterprise development and entrepreneurship, to help unlock the potential of Caribbean youth to contribute to the regional economy and find new opportunities in the orange economy. In 2017, CDB established the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovative Fund, to which an initial contribution of USD 2.6 million was made. The Fund was designed to develop the creative industries sector, and encourage innovation, job creation and the sustainability of enterprises across the region with a view to kick-starting new possibilities for youth in music, film, interactive media, animation and gaming, and fashion and design.

20. Another CDB initiative highlighted is the Bank's Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), the Bank's flagship programme for poverty reduction. BNTF is partnering with government entities, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the private sector to mobilize resources to assist at-risk youth to start and operate businesses. The Vice-President referred to the Bank's first Youth Policy and Operational Strategy, scheduled for rollout in 2019. This strategy aims to mobilize and assign resources for interventions designed to provide young people with the means to become part of the productive sector. She concluded with a call for partnership to be at the core of achieving real progress for youth. Bolstering systems to respond to youth unemployment; building youth capacity to succeed in an age of digital innovation; and scaling up entrepreneurship education are areas where collaboration and cooperation will be critical.

21. The Director, subregional office for the Caribbean, UNFPA, stated that without the engagement, commitment and passion of young people, countries will not achieve the priority actions

set out in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development or the ambitious 2030 Agenda. She mentioned that engagement with young people is a priority for UNFPA. She acknowledged that young people are not a homogenous group, therefore, countries need tailored public policies that address the situation and reality of youth, whether they are rural, urban, indigenous, male, female, living with a disability, affected by drugs, conflict or other challenges. She highlighted the importance of partnership and inclusive dialogue in order to agree on actions for change. For this to happen, governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and all development actors need to enter a meaningful partnership with young people.

22. The Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, mentioned the essential message of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that commits leaders to “provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities,” and that calls on young men and women to serve as “critical agents of change”; and to use the new Sustainable Development Goals as a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world. She highlighted that the integration of youth into the Caribbean’s sustainable development processes is essential for the future wellbeing of Caribbean communities. Progress in achieving sustainable development with equity requires policies that address the needs of the most vulnerable groups, paying attention in particular to those inequalities that impact youth. She concluded with a call for collective work, building synergies and ownership, using the Forum as an opportunity to foster greater inclusiveness by examining the ways in which all peoples, but especially youth, could participate in decision-making and governance of Caribbean countries.

23. The Chairperson, Caribbean Regional Youth Council, based his opening remarks on a joint statement from various youth organizations that participated in the Caribbean Youth Dialogue Sessions. The Youth Dialogue was a platform put in place by ECLAC and its partners, in preparation for the Forum, to provide a medium for more than 60 youth leaders and youth organizations across the Caribbean to share their perspectives. He indicated the difficulties in engaging youth in a meaningful way and highlighted the challenges posed to rural youth and those living in remote areas, who are often excluded from development processes. He emphasized the importance of mobilizing youth organizations while strengthening partnerships and creating new ones in order to promote change, sustainable development and youth empowerment across the subregion. He stressed the following key areas of work for youth networks: contributing to the development and implementation of National Youth Policies that reflect the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; mainstreaming youth issues in national development plans, policies and programs; encouraging further development of research-based programs and data collection to support strategic action plans; inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized youth groups; and promoting the revision of education systems and increased training opportunities for youth.

2. Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

24. This panel, moderated by the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, addressed progress and challenges faced by Caribbean countries in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development during the period 2013-2018.

25. The Population Affairs Officer of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented a report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean. He explained that the Montevideo Consensus contained more than 100 priority actions covering 9 thematic sections and was aimed at reinforcing the further implementation of the Cairo Programme and its follow-up.

26. He highlighted progress made in the subregion, in particular in the following areas: universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including increased contraceptive use; a decline in teenage pregnancies although it remains a problem among girls living in poverty; a decline in AIDS-related deaths which have roughly halved in 10 years; a decline in maternal mortality in some countries; falls in under-5 mortality and infant mortality. Policies and programmes had been developed for older persons (although they are still under-resourced); there have been advances made in the area of women's representation in politics (although parity remains a long way off); there had been increased subregional and international cooperation in dealing with international migration; the development of diaspora policies; and a stronger institutional and public policy response on behalf of indigenous peoples in Dominica and Guyana in particular (although deep social inequalities persist).

27. There are further outstanding challenges, in particular in the following areas: youth unemployment, which was at a similar level in 2016 as it was in 2002; crime and violence, which continue to be a threat to all population groups but young people in particular; prejudice, discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) and persons living with HIV, which remain widespread; outdated abortion laws; continued use of corporal punishment; and weak legal protections for refugees and asylum-seekers. Mechanisms for the protection of human rights such as national human rights institutions in accordance with Paris Principles are not in place; public prosecutor or ombudsman institutions have limited mandates and are under resourced; and justice systems are slow and often ineffective for the pursuit of rights claims. Avenues to pursue claims internationally are also extremely limited, for example many countries do not recognize the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

28. The Director of UNFPA subregional office for the Caribbean described her office's support for Caribbean Governments in the preparation of national reports for the upcoming Regional Population Conference. She highlighted a number of common themes which had emerged from national reviews: adolescent pregnancy levels were reducing, however forced early sexual debut was a common occurrence in the subregion. This is often correlated with income and poverty, leading to the intergenerational transmission of poverty. In addition, there was strong resistance to the adoption and implementation of comprehensive sexuality education and family planning education. There were legislative barriers which impeded access to sexual and reproductive health services, in particular mismatches between the age of consent and the conditions for access to services.

29. Despite these barriers, the Caribbean was no longer regarded as the region with the most stringent restrictions on access to sexual and reproductive health and services. However, she noted that the region had the second highest level of adolescent pregnancy and HIV infections. Gender inequality also remains a challenge with women still less likely to hold positions of power and at risk of sexual and domestic violence.

30. She concluded by highlighting the fact that there is a scarcity of reliable data and weak statistical systems in the subregion, therefore it was important to make additional efforts to provide disaggregated and up-to-date data for comparative analysis and evidence-based policymaking.

31. The representative of the Planning Institute of Jamaica highlighted that an important thrust of the Montevideo Consensus was the establishment of a permanent institutional structure devoted to population and development issues. The Government of Jamaica revised its National Population Policy and developed a National Programme of Action on Population and Development in 1995 consistent with the principles and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action. In addition, he reported that Jamaica had, from as early as 1983, established a multisectoral Population Policy Coordinating Committee to monitor its National Population Policy. Since 2007, this mechanism has

been renamed the Population Thematic Working Group of Vision 2030 Jamaica, the National Development Plan.

32. The representative of Jamaica also reported that in line with the policy direction of the Montevideo Consensus, Jamaica has planned for the upcoming five-year period, the revision and formulation of several critical policies and strategies to address the changing demographics of the country, including the revision of the National Population Policy, the National Youth Policy, the National Policy for Senior Citizens, the National Policy on International Migration and Development, and the National Policy on Poverty and Programme of Action on Poverty Reduction. The revision of the National Population Policy will be carried out having regard to the priority actions of the Montevideo Consensus, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and Vision 2030 Jamaica.

33. He highlighted a notable advance concerning persons with disabilities. A new Disability Act was adopted in 2014, which makes provisions to safeguard and enhance the welfare of persons with disabilities; protect their human rights and prevent any form of discrimination against them.

34. In relation to sexual and reproductive health issues, the Government of Jamaica is in the process of formulating a national policy on sexual and reproductive health and reported that there is an established mechanism for integrating elements of the HIV/AIDS programme into the work of the National Family Planning Board. It was also reported that Jamaica has made significant strides over the years in reducing its total fertility rate from 6 children per woman in the 1970s to approximately 2.4 children at present; however, adolescent fertility remains a challenge at 72 births per 1,000 women between 15 and 19 years of age. There was also considerable work to be done in order to tackle adolescent pregnancy and the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents. In 2013, the Ministry of Education unveiled a policy on reintegration of teenage mothers in the formal education system. This was to ensure that all teenage mothers were able to return to education and were encouraged to pursue their academic goals with a view to breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Through strong partnership with civil society groups, the Government is progressing in raising awareness on all these issues. Other achievements include the establishment of adolescent-friendly centres; multisectoral support for the National Strategic Plan for Pre-Adolescents and Adolescents; and the development of an action plan for standards of care; as well as the implementation of the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality.

35. Furthermore, there had been substantial reductions in mother-to-child transmission of HIV and deaths due to HIV/AIDS; reductions in infant, child and maternal mortality; and provision of universal access to quality and affordable health services. There was also progress on health and family life education.

36. Nonetheless, the representative of the Planning Institute of Jamaica highlighted some challenges, in particular lack of resources. Therefore, he emphasised the need for continued technical and financial support for population and development programmes at the regional and national levels. He conveyed his Government's appreciation for the work being done by UNFPA subregional office and ECLAC, and strongly urged that continued and increased resources be provided to support Member States in the Caribbean subregion in their implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. In several areas of the population and development programme, the subregion ran the risk of gains being eroded if the wide scale and drastic removal of such critical development resources continues. Within the context of the objectives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Jamaica reiterated the call for additional resources to countries caught within the middle-income trap.

37. He concluded by making a special call for technical and financial support to build data capacity, instruments and systems to facilitate the production of timely, accurate, reliable and comparable data, as well as effective programmes in line with the relevant areas of the Montevideo Consensus.

38. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname shared the main achievements of her Government in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. These encompassed the introduction of a national social security system in order to reduce poverty, with a Minimum Wage Act, General Pension Act and Basic Health Insurance Act all introduced in 2014. She also reported that between 2012-2013, the suicide mortality rate for Suriname was 26.7 per 100,000 inhabitants, with 20-25 per cent of all suicides in Suriname being committed by young people between 10 and 24 years of age, therefore action was taken through the National Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan to decrease suicide and suicide attempts.

39. It was reported that from 2014-2017, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) implemented a three-year Youth Development and Juvenile Justice Programme which brought together public and private partners. The programme supported the provision of basic life skills, vocational training, pre-employment skills and job placement services to more than 2,500 at-risk youth. As a result of this programme, more than 1,300 youth have received full time employment, completed an internship, started a business or returned to school.

40. There were amendments to the sexual offences section of the penal code which took into account the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional protocols, and the Convention on Cybercrime. The amendments explicitly penalize child pornography and child prostitution. In addition, the marriageable age for girls which was 15 and for boys 17, have both been raised in accordance with international human rights standards. Furthermore, in order to tackle child labour, the Work of Children and Youth Act was enacted recently. In addition, the Government has implemented a programme that provides support and counselling to teenage mothers who make the choice to re-enter school.

41. Concerning health-related issues, the representative of Suriname reported that the Government adopted the 3rd National Strategic Plan for HIV 2014-2020. There has been a steady decline in the number of newly registered HIV cases, from 781 cases in 2006 to 473 in 2013. Other plans have also been implemented, which have included the Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action Plan, the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy (2014-2017), as well as the expansion of health care centres with information on maternal health and HIV. Comprehensive sexuality education has been integrated into the school curriculum and the Ministry of Health is working towards a renewal of primary health care (PHC), with an emphasis on community participation, increased outreach care and the building of a continuum of care referral system.

42. In relation to gender equality, it was reported that the Government is in the process of developing a gender policy for 2018–2022 and has carried out a revision of textbooks in the education system to eliminate all forms of gender stereotyping. Nationwide gender equality training was carried out for service personnel, parliamentarians and members of the Council of Ministers and one of the key priority issues of the Government is combating violence against women and, in particular, domestic violence. There was also a renewal of labour legislation, with a specific focus on equal treatment and violence in the workplace. Concerning migration, it was reported that a Migration Institute has been established and registered migrants have free access to basic healthcare services.

43. The representative of Suriname concluded by mentioning that there were currently discussions about the formulation of a population policy, aligned with the National Development Plan 2018-2021.

44. The main discussions following the panel presentations focused on the importance of family planning as a human right and its role in breaking the cycle of poverty. Sexual and reproductive health must be prioritized, and policies reviewed to address discrepancies between the age of consent and the age at which sexual and reproductive health services can be accessed, including for persons with disabilities. The representative from Jamaica commented that the country's comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy was inclusive and that all the needs of different groups were addressed. Related to this there was a discussion focused on the importance of addressing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including in post-disaster situations. There is a need to include mental health, psychosocial support and sexual and reproductive health in all stages of disaster risk reduction.

45. Also discussed were the challenges involved in tackling trafficking in persons, in particular the need for protection mechanisms for victims, including young girls. It was reported that in terms of legislation, Caribbean countries were developing legislation, encouraged by the United States of America State Department. Caribbean countries have been active in the development and implementation of the Brazil Plan of Action and in the establishment of the Caribbean Migration Consultations (supported by IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)). These have primarily involved the ministries of national security in the subregion. Some areas that still need more attention are the limited protection offered to refugees and asylum-seekers in the subregion and the lack of protection for the rights of migrant children.

46. In concluding the panel, the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean highlighted the importance of the inclusion of the Montevideo Consensus in policies, programmes and national development plans, as well as the need to make additional efforts to collect data for evidence-based policymaking, fostering South-South partnership and financing for development in the area of population.

3. An intergenerational dialogue: What role for older persons in the changing structure of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean?

47. This panel was facilitated by two youth development specialists, from Jamaica and Suriname respectively, and it focused on intergenerational perspectives on work, life, care and the importance of intergenerational relations.

48. The Director of Ageing of Trinidad and Tobago highlighted that developing countries were ageing at a faster rate than they were developing economically. She highlighted several factors that contribute to an ageing of the population, which were low fertility, low mortality and migration.

49. She also highlighted some key issues affecting older persons, including lack of economic security and social disengagement. She emphasized that older persons need more options with respect to their living arrangements, for example retirement and assisted living communities. Young persons also need to recognize the importance of investing in policies and programmes to address population ageing, for instance adult day care centres, transport systems, information and communications technology (ICT) for seniors, programmes to promote active ageing and reverse mortgages, among others.

50. The Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Council and Interim General Secretary of the National Youth Council of Jamaica provided some recommendations for facilitating intergenerational relations based on an assessment of the changing structures of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean. In doing so, he highlighted the importance of family time, for instance dining together, storytelling, folklore and maintaining the Caribbean's cultural heritage. However, modern family life is characterized by eating out, bedroom dining, eating 'on the go' or while watching

movies on gadgets, habits that do not encourage interaction between generations. He argued that family time should be valued and that all generations in the family should decide on a time where they can relax, reflect and spend time together, including via technology if necessary. Another topical issue was mutual respect between youth and older persons. Youth should be encouraged to be respectful and older persons must also be ready to accept social changes.

51. The Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica also discussed the value of face-to-face communication in order to improve intergenerational relations. Youth organizations could participate in skills sharing with older persons, for example through the establishment of institutes for seniors.

52. He then explained the difference between the Generations Z, Millennials and Generation X in the Caribbean workplace and the fact that Millennials were dominating the workforce. They comprised those born between 1980 and 1996 and they are racially diverse, often politically, religiously and conjugally unattached, linked by social media and affected by debt but still optimistic. They may supervise older members of staff or be supervised by older staff. In both situations, bonds must be built to create a positive work environment. It was recommended that flexible work arrangements, virtual working and/or working from home were introduced to enhance productivity and wellbeing.

53. The member of the Guyana Commission for the Family reiterated that the issue of the intergenerational family merited careful attention. The National Commission was concerned about older persons that live with younger family members and the potential for elder abuse (financial, emotional, sexual and physical). On the other hand, placing older persons in elder care facilities takes a toll on them. She also discussed the risks associated with older persons living alone or spending significant amounts of time alone.

54. The member of the youth-led organization, I am Girl Barbados, highlighted a number of intergenerational issues that were affecting Caribbean societies. These included social tensions between seniors and youth; lack of genuine dialogue between the two groups, in particular in the workplace; and young persons' sense of entitlement versus older persons' fears of being replaced or marginalized. She discussed the digital divide: older persons may experience digital exclusion due to lack of knowledge whereas young persons tend to embrace technological advancements. Other serious concerns include abandonment, loneliness and neglect.

55. She highlighted some recommendations. One of them was the need for genuine intergenerational dialogue, perhaps through mentorship schemes within the workplace which would promote harmony and enhance the work environment. To address the digital divide, ICT programmes for seniors can be conducted by young people. Youth should be encouraged to volunteer at senior homes to create opportunities for intergenerational interaction. It is also important to foster collaboration between youth and older persons' civil society organizations and highlight the contribution of older persons to society.

56. The panel was followed by a discussion that mainly focused on the importance of being prepared financially for ageing. Younger generations were encouraged to consider the financial aspect of ageing. The representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago described their retirement planning seminars for those aged 20 and above. Sessions take place over a two-day period and encompass will preparation, health and fitness, social security, pensions and investments.

57. Also discussed were ways of encouraging intergenerational relations. It was suggested that spaces that would combine entertainment and educational opportunities be created to get more young

persons involved with helping older persons in their community. On one hand, older generations have to learn how to relate to young people without judging them and without prejudice. On the other hand, older persons must accept that culture is dynamic, and compromise and understanding are necessary to reach a mutual understanding. It was recommended that radio talk shows as well as United Nations days for older persons be utilized to promote intergenerational relations and measures to address population ageing more generally.

58. Another key point of the discussions was focused on the international and regional frameworks aimed at protecting the rights of older persons, such as the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Caribbean countries were encouraged to ratify this regional instrument to strengthen the protection of older persons and the enjoyment of their human rights.

4. Sexual and reproductive health and gender equality

59. This panel which was moderated by the representative of the Ministry of Social Development and Housing in Grenada, focused on policy initiatives to better serve the needs of Caribbean youth, women and marginalized groups.

60. The sexual and reproductive health (SRH) advocate and member of the PANCAP Steering Committee on Youth Advocacy described how Caribbean Governments were still working to meet the global 90-90-90 treatment targets to end the AIDS epidemic. The targets stipulate that by 2020, 90 per cent of all people living with HIV will know their status; 90 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and 90 per cent of all people receiving therapy will have viral suppression.

61. Many infected persons belong to specific at-risk populations. Young people are at relatively higher risk because of limited information and financial independence. The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community is also marginalized. More generally, the Caribbean culture is one where sex and reproductive health are still considered to be taboo subjects. This makes people less likely to utilize or access sexual and reproductive health services contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

62. Another risk factor for young people contracting HIV/AIDS is that the age of sexual initiation is roughly between 12 and 14, but the age of consent to sexual activities is typically 16 and the age to be able to independently access sexual and reproductive health services is generally 18. These discrepancies put young people who are sexually active at risk because they cannot access services. Males and females between the ages of 15 and 24 account for one third of new HIV infections in the Caribbean. There is a need for age appropriate and culturally relevant education to provide young people with the knowledge and information to make informed sexual choices.

63. There was some progress in the Caribbean¹ between 2010 and 2016, with new HIV infections amongst children under 15 years decreasing from 1,800 to fewer than 1,000. There has been progress in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Six countries in the Caribbean were recently validated by WHO for having eliminated mother-to-child transmission.

64. The member of the PANCAP Steering Committee recommended that governments should promote access to sexual and reproductive health education for young people, involving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as appropriate. This will ensure that young people have the knowledge to protect themselves from HIV and other STIs.

¹ In respect of statistics on HIV/AIDS, the Caribbean includes Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

65. The representative from the UN-Women Multi-Country Office in the Caribbean provided participants with information on their Foundations Programme which seeks to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) with a focus on young women. This programme was also informed by the Partnership for Peace Domestic Violence Prevention Programme developed by UN-Women which called for the scaling up of gender-responsive violence prevention programmes to address the gendered causes and consequences of violence including the issues of masculine socialization and harmful and stereotypical gender roles.

66. The Foundations Programme was established based on several guiding principles: that gender education should start with gender awareness; providing the emotional and physical safety to talk about gender; transforming relationships; self-examination and introspection; and that social transformation should start with personal transformation. The main objectives of the Foundations Programme are as follows: to empower young people to understand GBV and its genesis in gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination; to promote an understanding of the consequences of GBV to partner(s), children, communities and societies in general; to endow young people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes for addressing conflict and responding to stress and stressors that arise in relationships; to establish an atmosphere of respect within group relations among and between young people; to promote self-sufficiency among young people in taking steps towards improving their relationships and their lives; and to create a network of young people who will advocate for non-violent relationships.

67. The curriculum of the Foundations Programme has a main gender equality component that is specifically designed for young people in the subregion. The curriculum is conducted by trained gender advocates to facilitate GBV prevention education among young people. There is also an Operational Manual and Procedural Guidelines for implementing agencies who may be interested in carrying out the programme as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure and evaluate programme outputs. The next steps will be for the Ministries of Education in the Caribbean to adopt the programme for implementation in schools as part of Health and Family Life Education Programmes. It can also be adopted by youth and social development ministries as well as community-based organizations and NGOs including faith-based organizations.

68. The Founder and Project Coordinator of the NGO Women's Wednesdays Guyana spoke about access to information, and access and inequalities in the distribution of services as they relate to sexual and reproductive health and rights. One of the things affecting many Caribbean countries is the high rate of adolescent pregnancy. Yet with very few exceptions, the Caribbean remains relatively resistant to the adoption of comprehensive sexual education, mainly for cultural and religious reasons. Guyana has a Health and Family Life Education Programme, which includes sexual education. Unfortunately, this programme is not implemented in many schools and it promotes an abstinence only approach without explaining issues of consent, the body, abuse and neither is it inclusive of different sexualities and gender identities.

69. For many young girls who get pregnant, their educational and career ambitions end although the more privileged can reintegrate into private schools. For the majority, there is no school reintegration policy although one is currently being developed by the Ministry of Education and the Guyana Equality Forum (which involves the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA) and the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD), among others). The Health and Family Life Education Programme has evolved over time but it is still lacking and even the most progressive of schools fail to address contraception and abortion.

70. In speaking of intergenerational poverty and breaking the cycle of repeat pregnancies in young mothers, it is critical to examine the role played by difficulties in accessing reproductive services, and

how these factors combine to perpetuate gender inequalities, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

71. While abortion has been legal in Guyana since the passing of the 1995 Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill, abortion related complications and deaths continue because neither information nor services were readily available. This often results in women from far-flung areas choosing to either take matters into their own hands or going to a ‘bottom-house clinic’ to have the procedure done. There are too many cases of women gaining injuries, becoming sterile and even dying as a result. Furthermore, the stigma associated with abortion in societies such as Guyana hinders women in getting rid of unwanted pregnancies, even if they can afford to do it safely.

72. The Project Coordinator of Women’s Wednesdays Guyana concluded by calling for political leaders to set aside prejudices and conservative ideas about sex and sexuality and instead be guided by the evidence which makes quite clear how this destructive cycle can be halted.

73. The Programme Officer of the GRPA presented on sexual rights, gender equality, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. They are often described as being a ‘vulnerable group’ or a ‘marginalized group’, labels which have the effect of obscuring their demands. LGBT persons do not tend to be very visible in youth programmes. The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are being neglected, not only by our governments but potentially by the region’s leaders of tomorrow. The Programme Officer discussed the need for public education on gender, sexuality, and sexual rights and the need to challenge toxic masculinity, homophobia, and disrespect of women and minorities.

74. He argued for the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education in community public education programmes, in schools and as part of an updated Health and Family Life Education curriculum; inclusion of LGBT persons in decision-making processes; policies to protect them from bullying; and argued for more forums to start conversations on equality. LGBT persons are marginalized as they do not have equal access to jobs; equal opportunities for education and other basic needs. In a lot of cases, they are thrown out of their homes, which exposes them to even more vulnerable situations and discrimination.

75. There has been some progress in these areas in Guyana: LGBT persons are included in the National Youth Policy and in the Ministry of Social Cohesion’s Strategic Plan; they are also included in both major political party’s manifestos. LGBT persons will be included in the updated Teacher’s Code of Conduct as part of a Ministry of Education policy to protect LGBT students from being bullied by teachers and their peers, and to protect teachers from being discriminated against by their colleagues. LGBT and sexual rights organizations are also invited to civil society consultations. Some religious bodies, youth groups and schools are now asking GRPA to conduct education sessions on gender and sexuality. In June, Guyana successfully held the first gay pride parade in the Anglo-Caribbean.

76. Despite this, there has been insufficient political will to repeal laws that discriminate against LGBT persons. There is a tendency among some governments to ignore LGBT issues. In all Anglo-Caribbean States except the Bahamas, same-sex intimacy is still illegal and punishable by years of imprisonment. In Trinidad and Tobago and Belize, citizens have challenged these laws, courts have decided that they are discriminatory, but they remain on the books.

77. In Suriname, a group called the Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group was established which is made up of persons from government, LGBT groups, other NGOs and the private sector. It is working on legislative proposals to incorporate the rights of LGBT persons.

78. Country representatives highlighted some of the challenges that are encountered in their sexual and reproductive health programming, targeting youth and LGBT groups. In Suriname, there are agencies that offer sexual and reproductive health services to youth, however in small and/or rural communities where everyone knows each other, most people tend to avoid using the services due to stigma. There are similar problems in Guyana which means that the issue of confidentiality is important for young people if they are to be encouraged to access services.

79. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis informed the meeting that the country has the most up-to-date Federal Youth Policy in the Caribbean subregion. It addresses the issues of ICTs, gender equality, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) issues. Saint Kitts and Nevis has also been noted as one of the first six Anglo-Caribbean countries to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. There has been an increase in testing sites with up-to-date testing methods that give a result within 15 to 20 minutes. There is also a mandatory rule for all pregnant women to be tested for HIV. Additionally, Saint Kitts and Nevis was one of the first countries that piloted a project (Project Viola) for the reintegration of teenage mothers in public schools.

80. The next steps for UN-Women's Foundations Programme will be to sensitize and raise awareness on its availability and utility throughout the Caribbean subregion, as this is a programme that can be adopted across a wide range of spaces where young people can be reached. UN-Women is also in the process of training gender advocates to be facilitators for this programme.

81. Some NGOs in Guyana have started to use social media as an advocacy tool in mainstream society. The use of Facebook livestream has been implemented to start conversations surrounding issues that are considered taboo such as abortion, sexual health and reproductive rights of LGBT persons. A wide cross section of youth has been reached in this way.

82. Programmes addressing HIV and AIDS have been extended to discuss other issues such as gender-based violence and violence towards the LGBTI community. Research has shown that women and LGBTI persons are more vulnerable and are at greater risk of contracting HIV and other STIs. Governments should also be prepared to address pedophilia, incest and child pornography.

83. There must be a holistic approach to the issue of access to health for young people, which should include mental and emotional as well as sexual and physical aspects, underscoring also the importance of gender equality, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people.

5. Migration, diaspora and development

84. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives of the University of Guyana and focused on managing skilled migration and engaging the diaspora in national development. He mentioned that there was a Conference on Diaspora Engagement in Guyana last year and that there will be a follow-up Conference in 2019, with an entrepreneurship focus.

85. The representative of the IOM gave a brief background on the diaspora in the Caribbean. The Caribbean is both a region of destination, transit and origin of transitional and regional flows. It is also a region that is seeing many returnees. In particular, it is a route of transit for undocumented migrants from Latin America to the United States of America. The representative of IOM shared updated data that highlighted the scale of the migratory movements affecting Caribbean societies, with Venezuelan migrants being one of the most vulnerable in the current context.

86. The feminization of migration is a phrase that has been used to reflect the fact that more than half of migrants are females, often moving to work in caring professions but with major impacts on families and children left behind. The United States of America is the first destination of choice for the Caribbean diaspora. There is also migration to Canada, mainly from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. There are migrants heading to Europe, mainly to the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and France. Many of those who migrate are persons with tertiary qualifications.

87. She concluded her presentation by noting that there were key benefits of migration and diaspora engagement: opportunities for community development; for exchange programmes; for return of professionals; remittances and diaspora investment in Caribbean micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The IOM has been supporting governments to promote these opportunities in the subregion.

88. The Senior Research Fellow of the Mona School of Business and Management of the University of the West Indies focused on the contribution of diaspora networks to economic development and the implications for public policy. She highlighted the importance of the diaspora by providing a brief history of emigration from the Caribbean and showed that the countries with the highest rates of emigration for tertiary educated persons were Caribbean countries, including Guyana, ranked first in the world, followed by Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica.

89. In addition, the Senior Research Fellow noted the important contribution of the diaspora to Caribbean economies based on their remittances. For example, in Jamaica, remittances are equal to 15.5 per cent of the growth domestic product. The diaspora, therefore, has been one of the Caribbean's longest and most stable development partners.

90. There are several opportunities for the diaspora's involvement with Caribbean youth in areas such as cultural industries, entrepreneurship and MSMEs. The diaspora can offer knowledge, networks and experiences from their adopted countries. The diaspora can help to provide alternatives and incentives to stem the brain drain, by establishing businesses, investing in business start-ups (e.g. as angel investors or acting as mentors), strengthening capacity-building programmes and fostering the internationalization of Caribbean small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Members of the diaspora may serve as investors, co-creators, collaborators or marketers.

91. Furthermore, the Senior Research Fellow highlighted that diaspora networks could improve opportunities and outcomes for skilled migrants, by supporting new migrants, through provision of local knowledge and intelligence, information on employment opportunities, mentorship and direct employment.

92. Based on the important role played by diaspora in economic development, policies should focus on managing skilled migration. In fact, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) should move to accelerate intraregional and South-South skilled migration. It is also important to promote legislation and regulations for an entrepreneurial ecosystem that creates a nexus between youth and diasporas. Embassies should be considered as nodes of support, information, and contact with the diaspora as well as providing pre- and post-migration support. Also highlighted were the need to increase the quality and quantity of migration data; and promotion of intersectoral collaboration across different policy spaces (migration, youth, disaster risk reduction and development). She concluded by giving positive examples of successful Caribbean firms that have operated in the diaspora economy, utilizing diaspora networks as a competitive advantage.

93. The Head of the Diaspora Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana presented the initiatives being conducted in Guyana aimed at engaging the diaspora. He emphasized that the

Guyanese diaspora is highly diverse, therefore it is important to take the specificities of different subgroups into account. This requires mapping the location of diaspora and collecting information about their skills. Guyana serves as an example regarding this aspect of diaspora engagement, utilizing partnership with diaspora communities to explore investment opportunities and providing better access to, and visibility for, business opportunities in Guyana. There has also been progress in reducing the cost of remittances and facilitating the transfer of knowledge and expertise that will support development, for instance in the oil and gas industries. The Head of the Diaspora Unit also mentioned that the Guyanese diaspora policy has a specific focus on youth to ensure their involvement in the development of their home country.

94. There was discussion of the voting rights of diaspora: voting rights encourage members of the diaspora to maintain a connection with their home country but there is also a valid question about whether they should have the right to vote when, in many cases, they will not be directly affected by the outcome of elections.

95. Participants also discussed how to increase the engagement of Caribbean migrants in policymaking in a way that will support development in the subregion, particularly bearing in mind the current hostile climate in many receiving countries. Caribbean nationals need both to be engaged in the countries to which they have migrated while maintaining Caribbean identity. This enables them to be better advocates and to lobby for the subregion and/ or promote policies that will improve the situation of the subregion.

96. Another critical topic addressed was the impact on social welfare systems and the economy of young and older returning migrants to the Caribbean. In the specific case of Trinidad and Tobago, it was mentioned that a main criterion for receiving a pension is that one must have resided in the country for 20 years. Concerns were expressed about returning migrants, including deportees, their eligibility for pensions, and how Caribbean economies will cope with absorbing them.

97. It was suggested that the term 'diaspora' be used instead of 'migrants' or 'emigrants' as the latter terms have negative connotations. The term 'diaspora' presents a more empowering image reflecting the reality that most migrants do contribute to receiving societies rather than being a burden. In relation to involuntarily returning migrants, Caribbean countries have held discussions with developed countries about their treatment and arrangements for their return. The representative from IOM stated that support was provided for the reintegration of involuntarily returning migrants and encouraged countries to develop migration policies in liaison with all sectors and agencies. Involuntarily returning migrants also return with skills and knowledge gained abroad, however stigmatization makes it difficult for them to reintegrate. More attention was needed to the requirements of returning deportees. The portability of benefits is also crucial to the movement of people and this was another area which merited greater attention.

98. The feminization of migration and its impact on children was another topic highlighted in the discussions. More specifically, questions were raised concerning the systems put in place to treat migrants coming from Venezuela, specifically female Venezuelans. It was mentioned that there were efforts being made by the Government of Guyana, with international support, to respond to the migration from Venezuela. IOM, for instance, had received emergency response funding to facilitate the gathering of data on vulnerabilities, needs and impacts in receiving communities.

99. The representative from Jamaica reported that they have a national policy on migration, as well as a draft diaspora policy that could serve as a model to other countries in the subregion.

6. Consideration and agreement of the recommendations of the meeting

100. The Director of the Department of Youth and Culture of Anguilla chaired a discussion in which meeting participants considered and agreed on a set of recommendations for implementation coming out of the Forum. The recommendations were subsequently presented to the Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development which was held in Lima, Peru from 7 to 9 August 2018. These recommendations are presented in annex I of this report.

7. Closure of the meeting

101. The Honourable Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of Suriname expressed her gratitude to all those who made the Caribbean Forum a possibility. The Forum reviewed the progress made towards youth development based on the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2012-2022; the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and reviewed the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. She noted that 63 per cent of the Caribbean population comprise people under the age of 30 who should be considered important partners and beneficiaries in the regional integration and development of CARICOM.

102. She commended the youth participants on their leadership skills. These young people came up with innovative ideas on how to address challenges that the youth of today face and solutions to conquer them. The Minister emphasized that youth must be fully engaged in policy and decision-making processes for the sustainable development of the Caribbean subregion.

103. She informed the participants that Suriname is willing to host a follow-up meeting to continue and deepen the cooperation as countries continue their implementation of these international agreements. Furthermore, Suriname will host the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Meeting in 2019 and she encouraged member States to support participation in that meeting.

104. The CARICOM Youth Ambassador for Guyana expressed his appreciation on behalf of the people of the Caribbean, both young and young at heart, to the participants in the Forum. He thanked all the participating leaders, experts, guests and representatives and expressed congratulations regarding the success of the Forum. He recapped the themes which had been discussed: youth and the 2030 SDG Agenda, youth policy interventions, youth employment, education, youth political and civic participation, intergenerational relations, migration, diaspora and development and lastly, but importantly, sexual and reproductive health and gender equality.

105. He also noted the online youth dialogues which preceded the Forum, and which would continue to meet and follow up on progress made in implementing the recommendations emanating from the Forum.

106. The Programme Manager for Culture and Community Development of the CARICOM Secretariat stated that the Forum had been a stimulating and inspiring one. It had been enriching and gave expression to important principles, none more so than youth participation in decision-making.

107. She thanked all the partners that had come together to ensure that resources were available for there to be a good representation of young people in the meeting. It had been a good example of intergenerational tolerance, cooperation, learning and exchange between the youth and the “seasoned youth”.

108. She acknowledged the offer from the Government of Suriname to host a follow-up meeting as part of the continuing engagement with the youth of the subregion. It is the intention to work on the establishment of a regional mechanism to ensure the continued youth engagement and participation.

109. Based on the ECLAC studies that were presented during the Forum, the issues affecting youth are urgent and the region needs to scale up youth programming efforts on a national and regional level. She invited the regional partners to collaborate in the process of monitoring and evaluation and to work together on youth indicators.

110. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean mentioned that it was the first time she had experienced such a level of vibrant engagement at an ECLAC meeting. She stressed that the policymaking process must continue to include youth in an integral way and appreciated the partnerships and collaboration that had developed during the period of the Caribbean Forum. Furthermore, she stated that the recommendations and concerns coming out of the Forum would be presented to the Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development. In addition, there will be a Youth Dialogue at the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2019, and Caribbean youth must be an integral part of this process.

Annex I**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
CARIBBEAN FORUM ON POPULATION, YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of these recommendations is to enhance youth participation and attention to the concerns of Caribbean youth in sustainable development planning and policymaking and, incorporating those concerns, to identify actions to further the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

Georgetown, Guyana, 24-26 July 2018

We, the participants of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development,

Recalling the adoption, twenty years ago, of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (1998) in which governments committed to develop national policies and programmes for youth, and to the participation of youth in policymaking,

Concerned at the damaging impact on Caribbean youth of poverty, discrimination, violence, unemployment, unintended pregnancies and HIV among other risks,

Convinced that supporting young people through their adolescence and youth and facilitating their transition to the roles and responsibilities of adulthood is crucial to their personal development and their long-term health, wellbeing and productivity,

Convinced therefore that addressing the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of youth has a crucially important role to play in putting the Caribbean on the path to sustainable growth and development,

Reaffirming that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013) provides a regional framework for public policymaking on population and development issues that States continue to adopt, that complements the work of other mechanisms at the regional and international levels and reinforces the Cairo Programme of Action (1994) and its follow-up,

Recognising how the youth perspective is crucial to addressing population issues such as non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, recognition of the rights of minority groups, and management of international and internal migration,

Bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as an overarching framework for inclusive sustainable development that leaves no one behind and will contribute to the realisation of human rights for all,

Taking note of the documents ‘Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes’ and ‘Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: a Review of the Period 2013 – 2018’ prepared by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind the Report of the Youth Dialogues and the recommendations contained therein,

Make the following recommendations:

**Youth Policies and Programmes, youth participation and attention
to the concerns of youth in policymaking**

1. Support the development of a comprehensive youth-friendly mechanism, including a web platform, to foster collaboration, coordination and synergies among youth organisations, governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, international and regional organisations and academic institutions.
2. Promote an evidence-based approach to youth policy development, including access to up-to-date, systematic and regular disaggregated data that will inform the design, implementation and review of Youth Policies, programmes and initiatives, supported by inter-agency collaboration at the regional and international levels; and the inclusion of youth within research teams and statistics units, in particular young female researchers and statisticians, who continue to be underrepresented in research and statistics fields.
3. Monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of National Youth Policies and promote youth mainstreaming with monitoring and follow-up across sectors using appropriate indicators.
4. Promote inclusiveness and a participatory approach in all phases of the development and implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes while emphasizing the importance of adopting a gender perspective, and including the following sub-groups: teenage mothers; youth belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities; indigenous youth; young migrants regardless of their migratory status; young refugees, asylum-seekers or stateless persons; those with disabilities; LGBT young persons; youth in conflict with the law; those deprived of their liberty; those in institutionalised care; those living in orphanages; young persons living with HIV/AIDS; those living on the street; the urban poor and those living in remote and rural areas.
5. Improve coordination and identify synergies among the different youth organisations and networks in order to have increased impact at both government and community levels and avoid competing for the same limited government resources, in particular between the Caribbean Regional Youth Council, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, UWI STAT, SDG Youth Ambassadors, youth-led businesses, Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs-Caribbean and Canada (CAYE-C&C), University of the West Indies Guild of Undergraduates, Commonwealth Students Association and other Caribbean and Commonwealth youth networks, youth-led grassroots and faith-based organisations.
6. Use live streaming and dynamic, relevant and interactive digital media and ICT in public policy consultation in order to facilitate youth engagement.
7. Promote non-traditional education and training programmes, including personal development skills, entrepreneurial training, vocational training and career guidance.
8. Increase youth employment opportunities by developing youth employment strategies and policies designed to address the skills gaps in the private sector and anticipate twenty-first century labour market needs, with particular focus on the green and blue economics and creative industries, entrepreneurship training and ensuring the relevance of the high school and university curriculum.
9. Encourage or facilitate as appropriate the appointment or election of young persons on key government boards and committees at all levels and in all sectors, with particular focus on areas such as gender affairs, crime and violence, environment and ICT.

10. Ensure effective implementation of up-to-date, culturally relevant and rights-based comprehensive sexuality education, facilitating access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services delivered by appropriately trained staff.
11. Explore measures to expand psycho-social support for young victims of crime, violence, and abuse, as well as those impacted by disaster and emergency situations.
12. Explore measures to promote mutual trust and respect-based relationships between young and older persons; expand the involvement of young people in the care of older persons, especially those in institutionalised care and in need of home care services; include healthy ageing in curricula at all levels and in nursing and caregivers training programmes, while encouraging young males to consider careers in the caring professions; and raise awareness of the benefits of intergenerational relations.
13. Promote the inclusion of youth in decision-making and the creation and implementation of programmes aimed at combating climate change; and in disaster risk assessments, preparedness, prevention, response and reconstruction in order to foster resilience.
14. Encourage the involvement of youth in alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly initiatives, through training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns.
15. Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with a youth perspective, including in schools and university curricula, as well as through the creation of youth-friendly communication that will make the SDGs more accessible to young persons.
16. Explore measures to facilitate the participation of young persons in subregional, regional and international forums, including in mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council; the reviews by the High-level Political Forum and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and other platforms, such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Further implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

17. Explore measures to build capacity for the production of age-disaggregated statistics and assessments of poverty and inequality.
18. Continue taking decisive action on population and development issues in the context of sustainable development planning and build capacity for evidence-based policymaking in key institutions to more deeply integrate population concerns into the development of sectoral policies, including those to reduce poverty and inequality.
19. Promote measures to strengthen social protection for families with children, including cash and in-kind benefits and services, subsidized health care and other measures to enhance the wellbeing of children, such as investment in pre-school education.
20. Advocate the strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to protect children from sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and other forms of violence, and reinforce public awareness, programmes for at risk children and support for victims.

21. Encourage the consideration of legislation to prohibit corporal punishment against boys, girls and adolescents.
22. Advocate for respect of the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of LGBT youth, starting in schools, including through the repeal of discriminatory laws; introducing laws to deal with homophobic and transphobic abuse and violence; training for police, educators and health service providers; and measures to address societal prejudices.
23. Develop long-term plans for the reform and development of pension systems (including digital pension systems), health and social care services, in the interest of creating universal, rights-based social protection systems which reinforce inter-generational solidarity.
24. Implement measures to recognise and support older persons in the contribution they make to the family, community, work place, civic and cultural life, maximising the benefits of intergenerational relations.
25. Consider signing and ratifying, as appropriate, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and other relevant international and regional agreements that apply to older persons.
26. Adopt, review, or enforce where they exist, legal and policy frameworks to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of abuse, neglect and violence against older persons, including cyber-based, financial and psychological abuse, as well as practices that infantilise older persons or that jeopardize their safety and integrity.
27. Promote an enabling regulatory and policy environment to ensure safety in the management of pregnancies of women, respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of women and achieving positive health outcomes for women, including through providing good quality contraceptive and family planning information and services, pre-natal care, providing for safe termination where necessary or appropriate, and meeting the particular needs of poor women, adolescents, rape survivors and women living with HIV.
28. Address the underlying health conditions which can lead to maternal mortality; improve emergency obstetric and new-born care; strengthen vital statistics systems for better monitoring of maternal mortality and morbidity; and work towards the provision of universal access to primary health care.
29. Design policies and programmes to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including those based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity and persons with disabilities.
30. Strengthen national HIV programmes, efforts to promote HIV testing, and treatment for all HIV positive persons in order to meet the 90–90–90 targets and end the AIDS epidemic.
31. Promote the implementation of measures to protect the rights of HIV positive persons with particular attention to LGBT persons, youth and other key populations enabling them to live their lives free from stigma, discrimination and violence.
32. Encourage the consideration of measures to promote the introduction of gender parity systems for political appointments to address women's underrepresentation in the political sphere.
33. Promote measures to achieve gender equality regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men at all levels of society.

34. Develop and review legislation and policies to comprehensively tackle gender-based violence, with the establishment of mechanisms for victims to access adequate protection, justice, redress and reparations, and to provide psycho-social support and counselling for perpetrators and other affected persons.
35. Encourage the development of legislation that protects the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and programmes of support.
36. Consider the situation of children of undocumented migrants and their access to education, health and other social services.
37. Develop policies to maximise the benefits of migration for economic development by promoting the free movement of skilled persons and wider engagement with the diaspora by means of trade, entrepreneurship, skills exchange, financing, remittances, and return migration.
38. Address territorial inequalities through the formulation of policies for enhancing mobility, resilient human settlements and for promoting adaptation to the impact of climate change and disasters.
39. Introduce, where appropriate, programmes enhancing indigenous peoples' access to education, health, employment and ICT with a view to eliminating the social inequalities by which they are systematically disadvantaged.
40. Protect, where appropriate, the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, with special attention to the challenges presented by extractive industries and with respect for the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.
41. Resolve to make all efforts to participate in future review cycles of the Montevideo Consensus, using national reviews and reporting as tools to guide implementation, and taking advantage of the way in which indicators for regional follow-up are integrated with those for the Regional Gender Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other platforms, thereby making the monitoring and reporting process more efficient.

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

- Sophia Zachariah, Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs

BARBADOS

- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Community Empowerment

BELIZE

- Kyla Ciego, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

DOMINICA

- John Roach, Chief Youth Development Officer, Youth Development Division

GRENADA

- Kevin Andall, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts
- Jicinta Alexis, Gender Analyst, Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment

GUYANA

- Hon. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion
- Michael Brotherson, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Abigail Welch, Foreign Service Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Melissa Carmichael, Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Social Cohesion, Department of Youth
- Alicia Jerome Reece, Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Social Protection
- Aubrey Norton, Head of Migration, Department of Citizenship
- Chetwynd Osborne, Policy Analyst, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission / Liaison - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Vishal Hulbert Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Carole Bishop, Commissioner, National Commission for the Family (NCF)

JAMAICA

- Andre Richards, Senior Demographer, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
- Sean Davis, General Secretary National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ) and Deputy Chairman, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ)

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- Vernon Connor, Special Adviser to the Minister of Youth, Department of Youth Empowerment

SAINT LUCIA

- McAllister Hunt, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Latoya Charles, Youth Representative, Saint Lucia National Youth Council (SLNYC)

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

- Nerissa Gittens, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth
- André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps

SURINAME

- H.E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Farishna Hoeseni-Hassankhan, Policy Adviser, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Michele Jules, Policy Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Tatjana Van Eer, Youth Parliamentarian
- Beryl Manhoef, SDG Youth Ambassador, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Samaidy Akima, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Ferranto Dongor, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
- Joy Mapp-Jobity, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development

B. Associate members**ANGUILLA**

- Bren Romney, Director, Department of Youth and Culture

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

- Brenda Lettsome-Tye, Director, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports

MONTSERRAT

- Fitzroy Willock, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education

C. United Nations Secretariat**Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**

- Nicola Shepherd, Focal Point on Youth

D. United Nations Programmes and Funds**United Nations Development Programme**

- Mikiko Tanaka, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Alison Drayton, Director/Representative, UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- Adler Bynoe, Liaison Officer, UNFPA Guyana

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group

- Jedidah Crosse, Guyana
- Jemima Crosse, Youth Leader

- Kimberly Gilbert, Co-Chair, Trinidad and Tobago
- Zaviska Lamsberg, Suriname

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Paolo Marchi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname
- Jewell Crosse, Youth and Adolescent Development Officer, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname

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

- Alison McLean, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

E. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator, Regional Initiative, Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Robert Natiello, Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean and Chief of Mission, Guyana
- Eraina Yaw, National Project Coordinator for the Caribbean

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Andrea Giselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Kingston, Jamaica

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

- Dr. Janice Woolford, Family and Community Health Specialist
- Jairetri Merchant, Intern

F. Intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)

- Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labour and Employment Section, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

The Commonwealth

- Sushil Ram, Programme Manager, Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth Youth Council

- Franz George, Regional Representative, Saint Vincent and Grenadines,
- Kurba-Marie Questelle, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Human and Social Development
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development
- Sherwin Toyne-Stephenson, Programme Manager, Crime and Security
- Laurette Bristol, Programme Manager, Human Resource Development
- Kendol Morgan, Programme Manager
- Riane de Haas Bledoeg, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development
- Hippolina Joseph, Deputy Programme Manager
- Jascene Dunkley-Malcolm, Communication Officer

- Rawle Ward, Senior Communications Technician
- Lynda Drakes, Senior Project Officer
- Patricia McPherson, Senior Project Officer
- Mareesha Stephens, Project Officer, Crime and Security
- Kanisha Commodore, Project Officer
- Ronald Joseph, Project Officer
- Anthonette July, Senior Clerk
- Gloria Whitney, Senior Clerk
- Petal Dodson, Clerk II
- Necola Myers, Clerk
- Marcia Blackman-Bishop, Stenographer
- Nigel Rowe, Videoconferencing Assistant
- Toné Aaron, Intern, Human and Social Development Department
- Nikita Blair, Intern
- Teon Coggins, Intern, Crime and Security Cooperation Project
- Nateshia Isaacs, Intern
- Natasha John, Intern, Human and Social Development Department
- Esther Osborne, Intern, Culture subprogramme
- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Consultant
- Dana Choi, Youth Volunteer, Gender Awareness

Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP)

- Dennis Glasgow, Youth Advocate

G. Other organizations and institutions

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

- Monica La Bennett, Vice-President, Operations
- Wayne Elliott, Research Analyst
- Raquel Frederick, Research Analyst
- Kemberley Gittens, Social Analyst

University of Guyana (UG)

- Leann Kendall, Lecturer
- Fitzgerald Yaw, Director of Strategic Initiatives

University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Faculty of Social Sciences
- Indianna Minto-Coy, Senior Research Fellow, Mona School of Business and Management, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Michael Joseph, Project Coordinator, Youth Development Programme, Cave Hill Campus
- Sheriece Noel, Student / President UWI STAT 2017-2018
- Asha-Gaye Cowell, Immediate Past President, UWI STAT

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Courtney Brown, Country Manager/Director, Positive Youth Development/Community Development, Community Family and Youth Resilience Programme, Guyana

H. Non-governmental organizations

Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA)

- Michael McGarrell, GIS Specialist and Forest Policy Officer
- Danella Clement, Youth Volunteer,

Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC)

- Shaquille Knowles, Chairperson

Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC)

- Derwayne Wills, Youth Representative

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA)

- Jairo Rodrigues, Programme Officer

Ikemba, Strength of the People

- Kibwe Copeland, President
- Onika Frank, Vice President
- Shemar Davis, Assistant Secretary
- Esmond Alsopp, Treasurer
- Shaquille Williams, Media Officer

The MultiCare Youth Foundation

- Alicia Glasgow Gentles, Executive Director

Youth Policy Labs

- Andreas Karsten, Researcher

I. Other participants

- Aggrey Marsh, Representative, Guyana Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)
- Akola Thompson, Social Activist, Guyana
- Dwynette Eversley, Caribbean Youth Policy Expert, Empowerment Dynamics Ltd,
- Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre
- Richard Berwick, Consultant, Brain Power Media
- Shakira Lowe, Representative, I am a Girl Barbados
- Teocah Dove, Consultant – Social Development and Communications for Development

J. Secretariat

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Colleen Skeete, Team Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit

Annex III**PROGRAMME****Tuesday, 24 July**

0830 – 0900

0900 – 1000

Registration

Opening of the Meeting**Chairperson:** Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana

Opening statements by:

- Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Hon. Dr. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion, Guyana
- H.E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Suriname - delivering message from H.E. Desiré Delano Bouterse, President of Suriname, CARICOM Lead Head of Government for Community Development

Interlude - Parkside Steel Orchestra

- Monica La Bennett, Vice-President (Operations), Caribbean Development Bank
- Alison Drayton, Director, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Interlude - Spoken word - Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre

- Shaquille Knowles, Chairperson, Caribbean Regional Youth Council - Joint statement from Youth Organizations

1000 – 1030

Coffee Break and official group photo

Day 1 Coordinator: Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname

1030 – 1130

Session 1 A

The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes + 20: A Progress Report on the CaribbeanPresentation of the *Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*, preliminary recommendations and priority areas for action.

Moderator: Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat

- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC
- André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps
- Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies
- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados

1130 – 1230
Session 1 B

Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

Presentation and discussion of the *Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: A Review of the Period 2013-2018*.

Moderator: Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC
- Alison Drayton, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Andre Richards, Senior Demographer, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Michele Jules, Policy Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname

1230 – 1330

Lunch / Introduction of youth groups

1330 – 1500
Session 1 C

Frameworks to Support the Implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean

Presentation and discussion of the main policy frameworks (WPAY, SDGs indicators for youth, CYDAP, PAYE, YDI) for youth development in the Caribbean: opportunities for synergies and improved coordination.

Moderator: Bren Romney, Director, Department of Youth and Culture, Anguilla

- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Nicola Shepherd, Focal Point on Youth, UN/DESA (Virtual presentation)
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Kemberley Gittens, Social Analyst, Caribbean Development Bank

1500 – 1515

Coffee Break

1515 – 1700

Mobilizing Youth to Advance the 2030 Agenda

**SPECIAL
SESSION**

A session about the efforts of young people to advance implementation of the SDGs – with youth participants from the region and contributions from the online, preparatory Youth Dialogue Sessions.

Facilitator: Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

Moderator: Kylah Ciego, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Belize

- Beryl Manhoef, SDG Youth Ambassador, Suriname
- Michael McGarrell, Youth Advocate, Guyana and Amazon Basin
- Chetwynd Osborne, Policy Analyst at the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Guyana
- Kurba-Marie Questelles, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago
- Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre

1700 – 1730

Day 1 Wrap-up Session

- Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname
- Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica
- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago

1800 – 1930

SIDE EVENT FOR
YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS**CARICOM Side Event: Training/Networking Session**

- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago
- Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs

Wednesday, 25 July

Day 2 Coordinator: Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

0900 – 1000
Session 2 A**Youth Policy Interventions and Programmes: A Best Practice Exchange**

A session presenting case studies to address the challenges of youth at risk, providing success stories in the coordination of multidimensional interventions.

Moderator: John Roach, Chief Youth Development Officer, Dominica

- Alicia Glasgow Gentles, Executive Director, The MultiCare Youth Foundation (YUTE Programme)
- Courtney Brown, Country Manager, Community, Family and Youth Resilience Program (USAID), Guyana

- Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs
- Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

1000 – 1015

Coffee Break1015 – 1120
Session 2 B**New and Emerging Youth Employment Opportunities**

A thematic session highlighting opportunities for youth employment in new and emerging sectors, including the blue, green and creative economies. The session will also discuss policy-level interventions to address the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment in the Caribbean, including entrepreneurship development.

Moderator: Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator, Child Labour, International Labour Organization

- Raquel Frederick, Research Analyst and Wayne Elliot, Research Analyst, CDB (Virtual presentation)
- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Richard Berwick, Lead Facilitator, Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO)
- Riane de Haas Bledoeg, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture, CARICOM Secretariat

1130 – 1230
Session 2 C**Access to Appropriate Education and Training**

The panel will discuss challenges and obstacles hindering access to quality, relevant and appropriate education and training, and will underscore linkages with youth employment through skills development, technology, vocational education and training opportunities.

Moderator: Sophia Zachariah, Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda

- Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labour and Employment Section, OAS
- Franz George, Caribbean and Americas Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- Paolo Marchi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname
- Patricia McPherson, Deputy Programme Manager, Education, CARICOM Secretariat

1230 – 1330

Lunch / Introduction of youth groups1330 – 1500
Session 2 D**Youth Political and Civic Participation**

The panel will discuss strategies and approaches to ensure active youth participation in political and socio-economic

development processes at community, national and regional levels.

Moderator: Gregory Willock, Parliamentary Secretary, Montserrat

- Tijani Christian, Chairperson, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)
- Zaviska Lamsberg, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname
- Latoya Charles, Interim PRO Saint Lucia National Youth Council
- Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana
- Andrea Gisselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean

1500 – 1515

Coffee Break

1515 – 1730
Session 2 E

Recommendations for Increased Youth Engagement in Development Frameworks – A Proposal for Action

The Forum will discuss and agree on priority actions to advance the regional youth development agenda and formulate a proposal to create a regional mechanism to facilitate youth participation, engagement and collaboration.

Moderators: Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat and Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies

- Asha-Gaye Cowell, President 2017-2018, UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassador Corps, Mona Chapter
- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados
- Kevin Andall, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Sport, Culture and the Arts, Grenada

1800 – 1930
SIDE EVENT

Game-networking

- Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

Thursday, 26 July

Day 3 Coordinator: Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago

0900 – 1030
3 A

An Intergenerational Dialogue: What role for older persons in the changing structure of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean?

Perspectives on work, life, care and intergenerational relations.

Facilitators: Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname and Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

- Jennifer Rouse, Director of Ageing, Trinidad and Tobago
- Sean Davis, Deputy Chairperson, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica
- Carole Bishop, Member, Guyana Commission for the Family
- Shakira Lowe, ‘I am a Girl Barbados’

1030 – 1045

Coffee Break

1045 – 1230
3 B

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality

Policy initiatives to better serve the needs of Caribbean youth, women and marginalized groups

Moderator: Jicinta Alexis, Ministry of Social Development and Housing, Grenada

- Dona da Costa Martinez, Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Dennis Glasgow, SRH Advocate and Member of the PANCAP Steering Committee on Youth Advocacy
- Alison McLean, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office, Caribbean
- Akola Thompson, Social Activist, Guyana
- Representative of LGBTI persons

1230 – 1330

Lunch / Introduction of youth groups

1330 – 1500
3 C

Migration, Diaspora and Development

Managing skilled migration and engaging the diaspora in national development.

Moderator: Fitzgerald Yaw, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, University of Guyana

- Eraina Yaw, International Organization for Migration
- Indianna Minto-Coy, Senior Research Fellow, Mona School of Business and Management, University of the West Indies
- Michael Brotherson, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

1530 – 1630

Coffee Break

1630 – 1730

Closure of the Meeting

- H. E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Agreement on key actions for the implementation and follow-up on the Montevideo Consensus
- Consideration of the recommendations of the meeting
- Closing remarks

Annex IV**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****Document symbol****Document title**

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Programme

-

Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes: Preliminary recommendations and priority areas for action

-

Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: A Review of the Period 2013-2018



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