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**Proposal for a revitalized
Caribbean Development
and Cooperation
Committee - Regional
Coordinating Mechanism
for Sustainable
Development
(CDCC-RCM)**

Repositioning CDCC-RCM as
the mechanism for sustainable
development in Caribbean small
island developing States (SIDS)

Artie Dubrie
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E C L A C

This document was prepared by Artie Dubrie, Sustainable Development Officer of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Contributions were received from Omar Bello, Coordinator; Willard Phillip, Economic Affairs Officer; and Elizabeth Thorne, Research Assistant, all of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit. Substantive guidance and additional contributions were received from Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Chief of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

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Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BPoA	Barbados Programme of Action
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CSD	Council for Sustainable Development
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
CDCC-RCM	Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, Regional Coordinating Mechanism
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development

ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHRLLS	The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
RCM	Regional Coordinating Mechanism
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States, Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIDS/POA	Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee of the CDCC-RCM
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WTO	World Trade Organization

Abstract

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) agenda for sustainable development has as its foundation the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA 1994), the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the BPoA (MSI 2005) and more recently the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway 2014). These agreements representing 25 years of continual focus are the SIDS sustainable development blue prints.

There are other important global mandates that are consistent with the SIDS sustainable development agenda. Paramount among these are the Paris agreement on Climate Change and its accompanying financial architecture such as the Green Climate Fund; the Addis Ababa action Agenda, which speaks specifically to Financing for Sustainable Development; the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, which focuses on the challenge of natural disasters; and the New Urban Agenda, which sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development.

With the objectives of positioning and maintaining a strategic SIDS focus across sustainable development agendas, this paper re-examines the Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation (CDCC- RCM)¹ in its historical context and analyses recommendations put forth during recent meetings of the CDCC. In doing so, the paper makes the case that a revitalized CDCC- RCM could serve as a uniquely Caribbean Mechanism to promote sustained implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda in this subregion and provide preparatory support for the annual meeting of the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

¹ Noting that there are other RCMs functioning outside of the Caribbean region, to indicate that this particular RCM under review is a body established by the CDCC, the abbreviations of the CDCC-RCM is retained for clarity.

Introduction

The economic, social and environmental challenges facing SIDS have been exacerbated since the need for specific attention to the vulnerabilities and challenges to sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was articulated in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. To effectively address these challenges, a synergistic and integrated approach to implementation of the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development is essential.²

The SAMOA Pathway reaffirms the fundamental fact that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique vulnerabilities. This uniqueness is an important consideration which the international community and other developmental partners must embrace as the SIDS face continuing challenges in meeting their sustainable development goals.

At the Twenty First Session of the CDCC held in January 2006, the CDCC-RCM was accepted as a coordinating mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the development agenda outlined under the BPoA. This objective has been reaffirmed for the coordination of all subsequent development programmes including the MSI, the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development agendas.³

In keeping with current and emerging priorities for the Caribbean SIDS, this study suggests the repositioning of the CDCC-RCM as The Caribbean Mechanism for Sustainable Development. This repositioned CDCC-RCM should be used as the tool to support the countries of the subregion in their implementation of an integrated sustainable development agenda as mandated by the principal development platforms relevant to the SIDS of the Caribbean. It should also assist member states in their preparation for participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development. This restructured CDCC-RCM can also support member countries in further

² SAMOA Pathway (November 2014), paragraph 120

³ Comprehensive details of the CDCC-RCM can be found at, Review of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the small island developing States of the Caribbean A proposal for consideration by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (2018), available at: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43313/1/S1701304_en.pdf

developing a SIDS perspective and in helping member states prepare for their participation in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the UNGA that monitors the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is envisioned that this repurposed CDCC-RCM will ensure that SIDS specific priorities are entrenched and consistently addressed within national and regional sustainable development portfolios in the Caribbean. By promoting an integrated approach to sustainable development implementation, the mechanism should also reduce the reporting burdens and at the same time enhance coherencies in monitoring, evaluating and reporting across multiple agendas.

I. Caribbean SIDS sustainable development agendas

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Agenda 21, Rio 1992) recognized SIDS as a special case for sustainable development.⁴ Twenty years later, the Rio +20 Outcome document– “The future We Want” (2012) reaffirmed the special case of SIDS. Rio+20 recognized the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS.⁵ All Caribbean countries are classified as SIDS.⁶

Achieving a SIDS focus within all sustainable development agendas requires implementation consistencies across national, regional and international platforms. These consistencies are best optimized when they are synergistic, cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and integrated. This will require established institutional arrangements with emphasis on planning monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The SAMOA Pathway, the BPoA and the MSI⁷ are the vehicles through which SIDS sustainable development is negotiated and agreed at national, regional and international levels. At the same time the SIDS sustainable development agenda is consistent with and should be implemented in synergy

⁴ United Nations Sustainable Development (1992), available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=23&type=400&menu=35>.

⁵ Future We Want-Out come document (2012) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=23&type=400&menu=35>).

⁶ The Caribbean SIDS include the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. It also includes the territories of Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁷ SIDS Agenda includes: The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States finalized at the Global Conference held in Barbados in 1994, known also as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA). This programme was reviewed and revamped at the five-year review held at the Twenty-second special session of the General Assembly in 1999, and the ten-year review held in Mauritius (January 2005). The latter outcome is known as the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI). In September of 2014, the international community met in Apia, for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States the outcome of which was the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, commonly known as the SAMOA Pathway (cited May 2019), available at: <http://unohrlls.org/>

with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.

A. Strategic positioning of the Caribbean SIDS sustainable development priorities

The Caribbean must consider its unique strengths and weaknesses as it navigates the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Sustainable Development and other sustainable development agendas. In this regard, multilateral development cooperation will be critical. Moreover, addressing the continuance of SIDS specific-sustainable development priorities will necessitate cross-cutting institutional and administrative arrangements aiming to actively engage all stakeholders- public, private and civil societies. This institutional restructuring will require localization, policy coherencies, multi-sectoral planning and financing.

Many SIDS have been facing serious foreign debt overhang challenges, which are compounded by the growing threat to eco-system services including from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters (Caribbean Outlook 2018). The differential impact of global external shocks cannot be ignored. Other factors such as limited technological capacity, volatility of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and domestic financial constraints, which lead to frequent debt distress, create the need to look closely at SIDS' specific development priorities. More recently, the Caribbean SIDS have had to address their mounting public debt problem, which was intensified after the global crisis of 2008-2009. Low growth and high debt repayment costs have limited the capacity of these countries to address resilient building strategies designed to alleviate their vulnerability (Caribbean Outlook 2018). For the SIDS, the use of per capita income as a basis for accessing concessional finance has had notable implications for financing economic, social and environmental developments.

The International Financial Institutions (IFIs) recognise the peculiar challenge of SIDS. In particular, the World Bank announced that it will review its policy on concessional finance for small states affected by natural storms and advance a Small Island States Resilience Initiative as part of resilience building (World Bank 2014). Such other initiatives as the ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation swap initiative represent an important departure from the traditional approach to debt reduction. It focuses on debt repayment at a lower cost while emphasising investing in green industries to promote growth and build resilience as part of a Climate Change adaptation strategy (Caribbean Outlook, ECLAC 2018b).

Focus should therefore be given to the full range of ideas and considerations that might be pursued within the context of the long-term strategic priorities of SIDS. It is suggested that the CDCC-RCM could be used to activate and redefine Caribbean SIDS sustainable development priorities while straddling all other related mandates and benefiting from them.

B. Select regional approaches supporting the Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Development Priorities

For small economies challenged by limited institutional capacities at the national level, pursuing post 2015 sustainable development agendas will benefit from coordination, monitoring and reporting of actions at the subregional level. As prescribed under the 2030 Agenda-implementation mechanisms, such joint actions would be required in terms of policy orientation; coordination of institutions and sectors; mobilization and spending of resources; capacity building; management of partnerships; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and coordination of international cooperation (ECLAC 2017).

The burden of multi reporting frameworks notwithstanding, the need for the design of a monitoring and accountability framework and of tools adapted to monitor and report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development mandates was recognized and recommended in the UN resolution 72/217.⁸ Further, the United Nations system organizations tasked with helping to design these monitoring tools highlighted the importance of adapting monitoring and accountability frameworks in all contexts, including those of SIDS.⁹

In the Caribbean, a range of subregional organisations are tasked with the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. These include UN agencies, civil society, government entities or a combination of these. Examples of these bodies can be found in Annex 3, Table A2.

Within the context of a broad regional framework to support sustainable development, the integrated development approach implicit in the SDGs requires increased intersectoral and inter-agency coordination (ECLAC 2018b). The need to have a systematic and coordinated approach to support the implementation of these complementary sustainable development agendas has also been addressed at various inter-governmental meetings.

The following recent intergovernmental meetings reiterate the roles that respective regional bodies should play in supporting an integrated approach to SIDS sustainable development:

- (i) The Twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC, April 2018)¹⁰ in its Resolution 100 (XXVII) reaffirms its commitment to fully operationalize the CDCC- RCM and with a view to monitoring and supporting its role in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda (see Annex 1)
- (ii) Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway (2015-2018)
 - San Pedro Declaration: The Caribbean Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway (San Pedro, August 2018)¹¹ , recommended that the CDCC-RCM once fully functional, should serve as a natural institutional home for the monitoring, reviewing and reassessment of priorities in the implementation of SIDS sustainable development agendas. In fact, the San Pedro meeting called for the revitalisation of the CDCC- RCM, with a view to advancing political advocacy on SIDS issues at the regional level, facilitating SIDS-SIDS cooperation and spearheading implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in a coherent and effective manner.
 - SIDS Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway Apia, Samoa (November 2018). This meeting also affirmed the role of regional mechanisms in supporting implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda. It advocated strengthening national and regional enabling mechanisms for SIDS

⁸ Resolution 72/217: Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (September 2016), available at: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/217.

⁹ Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Report of the Secretary-General- Advanced unedited copy of the report (cited April 23, 2019), available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/221852019_SG_Report_SAMOA_Pathway_Advanced_unedited_copy.pdf.

¹⁰ Twenty-Seventh Session of CDCC, Resolution 100 (XXVII) Ensuring Synergy in The Implementation of The Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and The Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action in The Caribbean Subregion (April,2018), available at: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/lcar2018_02.pdf.

¹¹ SAN PEDRO DECLARATION Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, San Pedro, Belize, (August 2018) available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20630San_Pedro_Declaration_final_version.pdf.

sustainable development including an effective monitoring and accountability framework for the SAMOA Pathway. The meeting also underscored the importance of mechanisms which would facilitate data generation, statistical analysis, knowledge management, education, communication and outreach activities.¹²

- UN- OHRLS: First SIDS National Focal Point (SIDS-NFP) Meeting (November 2018): This SIDS-NFP is intended to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, by providing a vital link between the global and national levels, facilitating coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹³
- The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LAC Forum) was ECLAC's response to the UNGA mandate for the Regional Commissions to assume primary responsibility for supporting Agenda 2030 implementation in their respective geographic regions. The LAC Forum which meets annually, interacts with States, civil society and the private sector, submitting its assessment of progress at the regional level. The LAC Forum offers an important space to review the SDGs, consider means of implementation, encourages and supports members States submission of the SDGs-Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the HLPF . ECLAC serves as the secretariat of this LAC Forum. (ECLAC 2016).
- UN-HLPF and VNR¹⁴: The HLPF is the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The VNRs are intended to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and targets, in all countries, in a manner that respects their universal and integrated nature and all dimensions of sustainable development. The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

¹² Apia Outcome Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway Apia, Samoa (30 October to 1 November 2018), available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21058Final_Samoa_Outcome.pdf.

¹³ SIDS National Focal Points (November 2018), available at: http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/10/SIDS-_National-_Focal_Points_Action_Plan_OHRLS.pdf.

¹⁴ UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Reviews (cited May 2019), available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.

II. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM)

It will be recalled that, pursuant to resolution 358(XVI) of 1975, the CDCC was created as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Article 4 of this resolution stipulated that one of the functions of the CDCC shall be to coordinate and execute pertinent activities in conjunction with CARICOM towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the SIDS (CDCC, 1975).

Principal functions of the CDCC in this regard include:

1. To promote the sharing of information and experiences among its membership;
2. To promote common positions and strategies on economic and social issues among Caribbean nations;
3. To function as a “think-tank” in support of sustainable human development, embracing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development;
4. To develop and utilize the available mechanisms, such as meetings of experts, workshops and national consultations in preparation for global conferences, including the adoption of common positions; as well as the follow-up of the outcomes of such conferences.

The CDCC at its twenty-first session noted that this body plays a vital role as an umbrella organization that links the sub-region, its partners in other regions and the United Nations system. This meeting, by its resolution 65(XXI), decided to create a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) to coordinate activities to support the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (ECLAC 2006).

A. Review of the Current Status of the CDCC-RCM for Sustainable Development

1. The CDCC-RCM Objectives

Functioning as a subregional body, the CDCC-RCM was established to serve the Caribbean countries in the advancement of SIDS sustainable development agendas. It was first proposed for monitoring development progress of Caribbean SIDS under the BPoA and subsequently the MSI (ECLAC 2018a). These objectives were to be attained through coordinated activities at national, regional and international levels, whereby the CDCC-RCM was to function as a clearing house, a central hub for the management of databases, and a convener of ad hoc meeting related to the implementation of Caribbean SIDS sustainable development priorities.

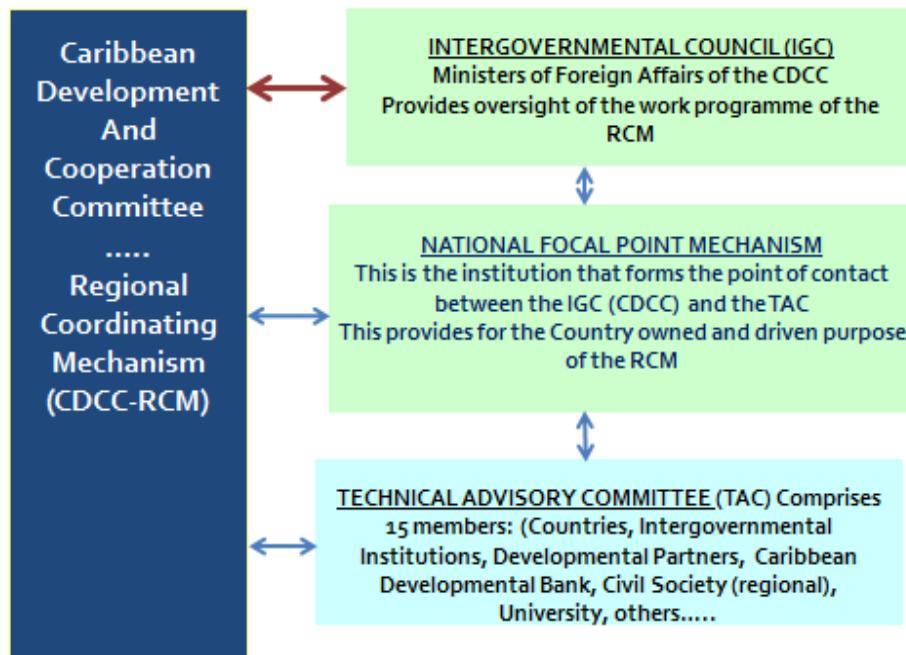
The CDCC- RCM's structure (see Figure 2, Current structure of the CDCC-RCM) which was designed to be country-led and driven is detailed as follows:

- Intergovernmental Council (IGC) comprising the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CDCC, which provides the highest level of oversight of the CDCC-RCM operation.¹⁵
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): It was proposed that the TAC be country driven, and that it be comprised of four CDCC- member countries, four intergovernmental institutions; one representative of civil society; three development partners – the Caribbean Development Bank and two others¹⁶; and three regional agencies – the University of the West Indies and two others. Together, these entities constituted the 15 members of the TAC. This membership was to be rotated to complement the thematic areas being addressed regionally on a bi-annual basis. ECLAC, in its capacity as secretariat to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), would communicate with these Ministers at Ministerial as well at the CDCC Monitoring Committee meetings. ECLAC would also have contact with these Ministers through country specific national focal points who would function outside the ambit of the CDCC.
- A National Focal Point Mechanism (NPFM) was established to ensure continuity in operationalising the SIDS agenda within national policies. To secure this commitment at the national level, it was suggested that the responsibilities of the NPFM should be articulated as part of the formal mandate of the institutions designated to lead implementation of the SIDS/POA.
- The CDCC-RCM Secretariat was intended to serve as the technical and coordinating centre supporting the work of the CDCC-RCM. It was to be housed within the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and suitably staffed (ECLAC, 2006).

¹⁵ To note that the current CDCC-RCM structure does not have a designated (RCM) Secretariat.

¹⁶ The member States, as the Intergovernmental Council would recommend the other two development partners and regional agencies would be recommended by the member States.

Figure 1
Current Structure of the CDCC- RCM



Source: ECLAC 2018a.

2. Status of the CDCC-RCM

To date the CDCC-RCM has been operating with the support of ECLAC which serves as the Secretariat to the RCM-TAC. The CDCC continues to assign responsibilities to the CDCC-RCM, the most recent being at the Twenty-seventh session with the adoption of the resolution on "*Ensuring Synergy in the Implementation of The Sustainable Development Goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and The Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action in The Caribbean Subregion*" (CDCC, April 2018).¹⁷

The CDCC-RCM therefore supports the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, 2030 Agenda and other post 2015 Sustainable Development Agendas. The mandate of the CDCC-RCM as approved by the CDCC is still relevant. However, the continued institutional functionality of the CDCC-RCM has not been realised. Factors that impede its operation include: absence of approved governing rules for the formal establishment of a CDCC-RCM Secretariat; rules for the appointment of members and working committees, financing/budgeting and reporting. In the case of the appointment of members to the RCM-National Focal Point Mechanism, this responsibility should have been vested in national institutions rather than individuals. This would have ensured national ownership and continuity. Table 1 provides a summary of additional challenges posed by the current structure of the CDCC-RCM.

¹⁷ Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (April, 2018), pp 19-22, available at: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/lcar2018_02.pdf.

Table 1
Review of the Operations and Status of the CDCC-RCM for Sustainable Development

Operation of CDCC- RCM	Function	Status
CDCC-RCM Secretariat	To function as the coordinating centre serving as a technical unit to the IGC implementing the work of the CDCC-RCM	There is no officially approved/ designated CDCC-RCM Secretariat.
Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting mechanism of the RCM	The CDCC-RCM currently reports to the CDCC.	As a subsidiary body of ECLAC, the CDCC reports are transmitted via ECLAC to the General Assembly of the United Nations. CDCC engagement with the CDCC-RCM has been largely cursory, limited to mainly receiving the bi-annual reports
Appointment of members, and sub-committees	The national representation of the CDCC is through member country-Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Under the current structure there are no formalized guidelines or rules of procedure for managing the operations of the CDCC-RCM.
Links to regional and international bodies	CDCC-RCM envisaged functional linkages with all regional and international development agencies invested in development in general, and the SIDS development agenda.	Recent intergovernmental reports referred to this body in supporting the continued implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agendas. These were for example the 27 th meeting of the CDCC and the SAMOA Pathway midterm review.
Institutional Arrangements	Limited structured institutional mechanisms.	ECLAC is the Secretariat of the RCM-TAC. Most recent meeting of the TAC has held in April 2018 ^a . There are no other CDCC-RCM institutional arrangements.
Financial	No dedicated budget for the CDCC-RCM.	ECLAC as the Secretariat of the TAC- convenes periodic meetings using internal resources. There are no other financial resources assigned to the CDCC-RCM
Communication and Outreach	No dedicated existing function of the CDCC-RCM on this item	ECLAC maintains and updated information of the CDCC-RCM at: https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean/committees

Source: Authors' interpretation, 2019.

^a Report of the Last meeting of the RCM TAC can be found at: repository.eclac.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43739/lcar2018_06_es.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

In view of the outcomes of recent inter-governmental meetings supplementing the SIDS sustainable development agenda, the section which follows considers arguments for a reconstituted and repositioned CDCC-RCM.

III. Repositioning the CDCC-RCM as the Caribbean Sustainable Development Forum

The design of a framework adapted to facilitate SIDS' efforts to undertake integrated monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the other relevant sustainable development agendas, with a view to avoiding the burden of multi-reporting frameworks, was strongly recommended during in the SAMOA Pathway Midterm review.¹⁸

Indeed, it was argued that the continued absence of a coherent system for monitoring and measuring of all the development platforms likely inhibited meaningful, strategic analysis of the Caribbean SIDS sustainable development priorities. Regional strategic analysis of SIDS' specific development challenges across the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development agendas would facilitate a more focused monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for the Caribbean.¹⁹ This approach could also serve as a common basis for data collection and analysis, harnessing an integrated perspective of all associated development platforms.

A. Repositioning CDCC-RCM, as the Caribbean Mechanism for Sustainable Development

In seeking to ensure a more visible and strategic positioning of the SIDS sustainable development agenda within the broader development framework, this section argues for a repositioned CDCC-RCM.

¹⁸ Advanced unedited copy of the report (UNGA 74, 2019): Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Report of the Secretary-General (cited May 2019), available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/221852019_SG_Report_SAMOA_Pathway_Advanced_unedited_copy.pdf.

¹⁹ Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Report of the Secretary-General- Advanced unedited copy of the report (cited April 23, 2019), available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/221852019_SG_Report_SAMOA_Pathway_Advanced_unedited_copy.pdf.

Drawing from the current structure, it is proposed that the new structure of the CDCC-RCM be expanded to embrace a new, integrated, synergised development agenda. This implies consideration of an arrangement that affords the participation of relevant subregional intergovernmental organisations as well as pertinent agencies of the UN system responsible for sustainable development. It also suggests that the repositioned structure should have agreed procedures for working with existing systems such as the newly established OHRLS SIDS-NFP.

The purpose of repositioning the CDCC-RCM is to ensure that the SIDS Agenda is consciously represented in national, regional and international platforms for sustainable development. It will also promote the identification of Caribbean SIDS sustainable development priorities in broader regional strategies activated by the LAC Forum. Given that ECLAC is the Secretariat of the LAC Forum, under this arrangement, ECLAC through its Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean could continue to play a substantive role as Secretariat of the CDCC-RCM, thereby ensuring more robust contributions from the Caribbean on implementation of Agenda 2030, while at once chronicling a comprehensive account of sustainable development in the subregion.

Indeed, the 27th Session of the CDCC held in St. Lucia, April 2018, acknowledged management of the LAC Forum as offering important opportunities for peer review, sharing experiences, regional partnership and expressions of solidarity when bringing the special needs of Caribbean small States to the attention of the wider international community was concerned (ECLAC 2018).

B. Requirements for a repositioned CDCC-RCM as Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development

The implementation of a repositioned CDCC-RCM will require enhanced operational and reporting elements of the CDCC-RCM, which will need to be decided at the highest level of the CDCC. A new mandate including agreements for management of this new structure would be required.

The new mandate should also seek to foster clear linkages with intergovernmental coordinating bodies, UN-agencies, developmental partners including north/south, SIDS-SIDS, south/south and triangular cooperation. This approach will facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, best practices, technical and human resources, and the brokering of joint negotiating positions on matters pertinent to SIDS in the multilateral arena. This would also need to include agreements on engagement with the LAC Forum. Consideration will have to be given to administration mechanisms, financing and the roles and responsibilities of member countries, regional intergovernmental bodies such as CARICOM, ECLAC and other developmental partners.

To provide for the functioning of the repositioned CDCC-RCM, the following will be required:

- Revised rules of establishment, membership and operations of the CDCC-RCM
- Revised mandate for the CDCC-RCM Secretariat
- Rules of engagement with intergovernmental bodies, UN system entities and other stakeholders
- Established institutional and financing arrangements for the operations of the repositioned CDCC-RCM and that of the CDCC-RCM Secretariat. This is critical for its sustainability and continuity. Seed financing should provide the basis by which the CDCC-RCM could ultimately undertake its own resource raising in the form of donor-funded project
 - Including Institutional Strengthening and Capacity-Building of CDCC Member Countries for mainstreaming (including assessment and reporting) on sustainable development into national regional and international sustainable development policies, plans and programmes

- Proposed Rules for the CDCC-RCM Secretariat including but not limited to:
 - Establishment of institutional and financial functioning on the CDCC-RCM Secretariat
 - Management of scheduled CDCC-RCM meetings, thematic workshop planning, delivery and follow-up requirements with member countries, inter-regional bodies, UN Agencies and other partners.
 - Reporting requirements to the CDCC, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development and other bodies supporting the Caribbean SIDS agendas.,
 - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements: The work of the CDCC-RCM in monitoring and coordinating progress towards the SIDS sustainable development agendas could be significantly enhanced using a digital platform for the sharing of key data and information among Caribbean SIDS. This is opportune as SIDS will be implementing the next five years of the SAMOA Pathway (2020-2024) and guided by the outcome of the SAMOA Pathway- High Level review (UNGA 74 Session, September 2018).²⁰ Concurrently, as countries implement the 2030 Agenda, the mainstreaming into the national strategy is paramount. In the context of the proposed national and multi-country institutional infrastructure for the implementation of the SDGs, the data requirements could be incorporated into this CDCC-RCM revised structure, thereby obviating the need for additional independent data platforms.
 - Communication and outreach. These activities and assigned resources should recognize that the SIDS Agenda is the overarching framework for guiding national, regional and international development efforts to achieve the sustainable development of SIDS,²¹ even as it is synergized with the broader 2030 Agenda.
 - A reporting mandate including financial to the CDCC and other bodies as per the revised/revitalised CDCC-RCM resolution.

1. Proposed Time lines in preparation for the 28th Meeting of the CDCC. This is detailed in Table 2 following:

**Table 2
Proposed time line for a CDCC resolution on a Revitalised and Repositioned CDCC-RCM**

Activity	Time schedule	Responsible body
RCM- Technical Advisory Regional workshop for proposing a Revitalised and Repositioned CDCC-RCM	September 2019	ECLAC
Drafting of Resolution for consideration to the 28 th CDCC (2020)	November, 2019	ECLAC and Members of the RCM-TAC, other partners
Submission to the 28 th CDCC for consideration the draft Resolution for a Revitalised and Repositioned CDCC-RCM	March 2019	ECLAC as Secretariat to the CDCC
Implementation of the decisions of the 28 th CDCC on the revitalised and repositioned CDCC-RCM	-to be advised-	ECLAC as the Secretariat to the CDCC and based on the CDCC decision

Source: Prepared by the authors.

²⁰ SAMOA Pathway. High level Midterm Review 2019, September 2019 (cited May 2019), available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview>

²¹ Apia Outcome Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway Apia, Samoa 30 (October – 1 November 2018), item 3, page 3, available at: file:///C:/Users/adubrie/Documents/CDCC%20Mon%20Com%202019/21058Final_Samoa_Outcome%20(1).pdf

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2004. LC/CAR/L.15 "Report of the Twentieth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)"
2005. LC/CAR/L.50 "Issues in the Development of a Regional mechanism/Consultative
- _____. 2005. LC/CAR/L.65 "Report on the Caribbean Regional Meeting to follow up on implementation of the Mauritius Strategy"
- _____. 2006. LC/CAR/L.90/Rev.1 "Meeting of the Expanded Core Group for the Establishment of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy"
2006. LC/CAR/L.86 "Report of the Twenty-first Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee"
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- _____ 2018b.LC/SES.37/14/Rev.1 The Caribbean Outlook (2018), available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43581-caribbean-outlook>
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Annexes

Annex 1

Table A1
SAMOA Pathway: Economic, Social and Environmental Pillar Aligned with the SDG Equivalent^a

Pillar	SAMOA Pathway Priority	SDG Goal
Economic	Sustained and Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all	8
	Development and Poverty Eradication	1
	Sustainable Tourism	8
	Sustainable Energy	7
	Sustainable Transportation	7
Social	Food Security and Nutrition	2
	Water and Sanitation	6
	Health and Non-Communicable Diseases	3
	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	5
	Social Development	10
	Culture and Sport ^b	
	Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities	16
Environment	Education	4
	Climate Change	13
	Disaster risk reduction	11
	Oceans and Seas	14
	Sustainable consumption and production	12
	Management of Chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste	6
	Biodiversity	15
	Desertification, land degradation and drought	
	Forest	
	Invasive Alien species	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

^aAdopted from the: Advanced unedited copy of the report (UNGA 74, 2019): Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Report of the Secretary-General (cited May 2019), available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/221852019_SG_Report_SAMOA_Pathway_Advance_unedited_copy.pdf.

^bIt must be highlighted however, that due to overlap in categorization and focus, several priorities in the SAMOA Pathway do require their own measuring tool to ensure accurate assessment. Adapted from the Advanced unedited copy of the report (UNGA 74, 2019): Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Report of the Secretary-General (cited May 2019), available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/221852019_SG_Report_SAMOA_Pathway_Advance_unedited_copy.pdf, pp5.

Annex 2

Twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (April 2018): resolution on Ensuring Synergy In The Implementation Of The Sustainable Development Goals Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development And The Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities Of Action In The Caribbean Subregion²²

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)", which adopted the transformative, people-centered Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹¹ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹², and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway),

Recalling also the General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, which endorsed the SAMOA Pathway,

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

Recalling General Assembly paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of July 2016 which urged the United Nations System to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden of the small islands developing States through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed outcomes,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 72/217 of 20 December 2017 on follow-up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States that urged all partners to integrate the SAMOA Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities as appropriate, to ensure effective follow-up.

²² Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (April, 2018), pp 19-22, available at: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/lcar2018_02.pdf.

Recalling the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (TAC/RCM) for implementation of the SIDS agenda held in Bogota on 5 March 2013, which sought to revitalize the role of the RCM in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and to strengthen coordination and oversight in this regard,

Noting the outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the TAC/RCM of 23 March 2018 which underscored the importance of national coordinating mechanisms to support implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda while promoting integrated reporting responsibilities,

Acknowledging the need to enhance regional coordination in support of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in the small island developing States of the Caribbean by strengthening the national institutional framework for sustainable development and building partnerships,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to fully operationalize the RCM in the Caribbean, with a view to monitoring and supporting integration in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;
2. Encourages its members to make every effort to mainstream the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in their national development plans;
3. Further encourages more active pursuit of partnerships among Caribbean small island developing States and between them and other partners including through South-South and triangular cooperation;
4. Calls again upon its members, in this regard, to designate a national entity as the focal point for the RCM;
5. Requests the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community, to provide the institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway at the national and regional levels;
6. Requests the Technical Advisory Committee to develop a strategy for the mobilization of resources with a view to providing sustained support for the work of the RCM.

Annex 3

Table A2
Selected examples of Intergovernmental Regional Coordinating Bodies/ Mechanisms Supporting Sustainable Development

Organization	Core Function (selected)	Relation to sustainable development of SIDS
United Nations in Latin America and the Caribbean- Led Bodies and Mechanisms		
Forum of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on Sustainable Development ^a	This is a LAC regional mechanism with purpose to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusive of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.	Cross-cutting on all subjects of Sustainable Development. ECLAC is its Secretariat and is guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals. It is led by the Member Countries of LAC and engages the private sector and civil society, as well as subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks, other United Nations agencies and regional integration blocs. This LAC Forum for Sustainable Development creates a platform for opportunities peer learning, including through voluntary national reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion of shared targets.
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Latin America and the Caribbean ^b	Monitors food security levels Assists in the design and implementation of hunger-eradication strategies, laws and programmes	Thematic Function: This agency's entry point is its focus on fighting hunger.
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) ^c	It is the specialized international health agency for the Americas. It works with countries throughout the region to improve and protect people's health. It engages in technical cooperation with its member countries to fight communicable and non-communicable diseases and their causes, to strengthen health systems, and to respond to emergencies and disasters.	Thematic function: It focuses on encouraging technical cooperation among countries. It also advances to strengthening its capacity to promote types of cooperation as viable, effective, and sustainable tools for health development through a renewed policy. It fosters South-South cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation.
The United Nations Multi country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) ^d	It is the business plan to guide the UN agencies, funds and programmes in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean for the period January 2017 to December 2021.	Cross cutting on all subjects of sustainable development: It supports the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SAMOA Pathway and other international development strategies, and the national development plans of the individual countries in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean.
RCM Bodies led by other UN Commissions		
The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN	It is a framework for coordination aiming to fast track programme implementation system wide by the United Nations	Convened by ECLAC, it is a vehicle through which the United Nations System serving the LAC region coordinates towards fostering inter-agency work and synergies and supporting sustainable development ^e
Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Africa RCM-Africa ^f	It is a framework for coordination aiming to fast track programme implementation system wide by the United Nations.	It is the vehicle through which the United Nations System can enhance its response to provide support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinating Mechanism ^g	This mechanism focus is to strengthen cooperation on priority areas and specific action required by UN agencies with regional programmes in Asia and Pacific to promote regional cooperation among and between inter-governmental, civil society and other development partners.	It serves as a tool to implement the Secretary-General's global priorities inclusive of climate change, gender equality, health and combating the financial crisis and poverty at the regional level.
The Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) ^h	This mechanism promotes strategic coordination and information sharing at the region and sub-regional level among UN entities and other regional and sub-regional partners. It focuses and promotes the collective action via the working groups and task forces.	It supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Organization	Core Function (selected)	Relation to sustainable development of SIDS
	Ensures cohesiveness across United Nations agencies is supporting an aligning its work and promoting cooperation between UN system and League of Arab States	
Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the UN Economic Commission for Europe ^j	Promotes cooperation among United Nations regional entities and their various partners on the region in addressing cross-cutting policy issues and provides regional perspectives to the global level	Joint UN System meeting and the issue-based collations serve as tools to assist in achieving the 2030 Agenda as a platform to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation and as a bridge between the global and country level.
Intergovernmental Led Bodies		
CARICOM ⁱ	<p>This organization is committed to changing minds to ensure the work of the Caribbean Community is robust and inclusive.</p> <p>It works to enable a community that works together to preserve the gains of regional integration and address the current challenges of economic recovery and growth and sustainable human development.</p>	Through the first Strategic Plan for the Community 2015 - 2019 directly responses to the need focus on specific practical and achievable goals to advance the region's development agenda
Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) ^k	<p>The Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM) is the body that comprises Caribbean ACP States for the purpose of promoting and coordinating policy dialogue, cooperation and regional integration, mainly within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement^l between the ACP^m and the European Union and the CARIFORUM-European Community Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).</p> <p>Its main objectives include the management and coordination of policy dialogue between the Caribbean Region and the European Union; and To promote integration and cooperation in the Caribbean.</p>	<p>It was established through the signing of the Georgetown Agreement in Guyana, in 1975</p> <p>Renegotiated and renewed three timesⁿ. In 2000 the Lomé Convention was succeeded by the ACP/EU Cotonou Agreement^o,</p> <p>The Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) was therefore established as a political group in October 1992 to provide that forum for consultation.</p>
Association of Caribbean States (ACS) ^p	The objectives of the ACS include strengthening regional co-operation and integration process, enhancing the economic space in the region, preserving the environmental integrity of the Caribbean Sea and promoting the sustainable development of the Greater Caribbean.	To enhance cooperation within the region. Further, it thrives on its function as an organization geared towards consultation, cooperation and concerted action in the interest of its member countries. Its framework provides a forum for political dialogue through which member states can identify areas of common interests and therefore adopt a regional response through cooperation.
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) ^q	It is an International Inter-governmental Organization dedicated to economic harmonization and integration, protection of human and legal rights. It encourages good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean.	The original treaty was revised establishing a single financial and economic space within which goods, people and capital could move freely. The organization ensures the synergizing of monetary and fiscal policies facilitating the adoption of a common approach to trade, health, education and the environment. It also advances special development issues including agriculture, tourism and energy.
Civil Society (Caribbean) Led		
PANOS Caribbean ^r	Its main area of work is to assist in empowering the most marginalized and vulnerable persons in the region. Its vehicle is through projects and other activities related to children and youth, public health, media community & environment and gender.	Its mandate is to amplify the voices of the poor and the marginalized through the media, to ensure their inclusion in public and policy debate, enabling Caribbean communities and countries to articulate and communicate their own development agenda.
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) ^s	Promotes and facilitates equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, lifting the quality of life, conservation of natural resources, using learning and research, capacity building, communication and fostering partnerships as its mode of raising awareness.	Promoting equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing the natural resources critical to development
Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) ^t	As a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Caribbean young people by facilitating their personal development	Responsible for creating an appropriate space for young people to participate in the design, development, implementation and promotion of

Organization	Core Function (selected)	Relation to sustainable development of SIDS
	and promoting their full involvement in all matters pertaining to the environment and sustainable development. It promotes education and training, Caribbean integration and community empowerment as tools to develop an ethic amongst young people that assists in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the Wider Caribbean.	new, progressive, equitable, innovative and sustainable environmental, economic and social development policies and programmes across the wider Caribbean.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

^a Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, Available at : <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/2030-agenda-sustainable-development/follow-and-review-2030-agenda>, accessed 12/4/2019

^b Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAO regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/acerca-de/es/>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^c Pan American Organization, world Health Organization (PAHO), Available at: https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91:about-paho&Itemid=220&lang=en, accessed 12/4/2019.

^d United Nations Caribbean, the Multi-country sustainable development framework, Available at: <http://www.2030caribbean.org/content/unct/caribbean/en/home/MSDF/overview.html>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^e Improving the Governance and Coordination of The UN Development System: Statement of Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary Of ECLAC, In the Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment. (cited March 2017), available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/speeches/improving-governance-and-coordination-un-development-system>.

^f Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Africa, Available at: <https://www.uneca.org/regional-coordination-mechanism/pages/about-rcm>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^g Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinating Mechanism, Available at: <http://www.unaprcm.org/> accessed 12/4/2019.

^h The Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/about-escwa/regional-coordination-mechanism>, accessed 12/4/2019.

ⁱ Regional Coordinating Mechanism for UN Economic Commission for Europe, Available at: <https://www.unece.org/runcwelcome/about.html>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^j Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Available at: <https://caricom.org/>. accessed 12/4/2019.

^k Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States, Available at: <https://caricom.org/about-caricom/who-we-are/our-governance/about-the-secretariat/directories/cariforum-directorate>. accessed 12/4/2019.

^l Cotonou Agreement is a treaty between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States ("ACP countries"). It was signed in June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin's largest city, by 78 ACP countries (Cuba did not sign) and the then fifteen Member States of the European Union.

^m The ACP is a group of countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific that was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. The group's main objectives are sustainable development and poverty reduction within its member states, as well as their greater integration into the world's economy. All the member states, except Cuba, are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement with the European Union.

ⁿ Lomé II (January 1981 – February 1985), Lomé III (March 1985 – 1990), Lomé IV (1990 – 1999).

^o Also known as the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, as the main framework of cooperation between the parties.

^p Association of Caribbean States, Available at: <http://www.acs-aec.org/index.php?q=about-the-acis>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^q Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Available at: <https://www.oecs.org/homepage/about-us>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^r PANOS Caribbean, Available at: <http://panoscaribbean.org/about>, accessed 12/4/ 2019.

^s Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Available at: <https://www.canari.org/>, accessed 12/4/2019.

^t Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Available at: <http://cyen.org/about-us/>, accessed 12/4/2019.



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