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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE

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A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A number of conclusions and recommendations were put forward at the third Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR), co-hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Government of Jamaica, on the basis of presentations and discussions centred on the theme “Exploring strategies for sustainable development and growth in Caribbean SIDS.”

1. Conclusions and main recommendations

(a) Issues of coordination at the international level

2. Caribbean SIDS should focus on a narrow range of priorities that will be addressed in Samoa on behalf of small island developing States (SIDS) and identify those that deserve to be part of the post-2015 agenda.

3. The Caribbean needs to look for partnerships to address SIDS issues, including the reduction of poverty and inequality, based on a re-energized regional integration movement and a clear vision of how the subregion will pursue its sustainable development.

4. There is need to engage Latin America and other regions, especially in light of the increasing influence and impact of emerging regional trading arrangements. At the same time, it should be acknowledged that the Caribbean has much to offer that our unique assets are integral to our comparative advantage, and should be marketed as such.

5. The CDR requested that ECLAC assist in enhancing and expanding support for regional integration and collaboration.

6. The CDR suggested that ECLAC contribute to identifying the priorities of Caribbean countries and assist the subregion in promoting its vision as it prepares for Samoa and engages the post-2015 agenda.

(b) Priority issues

7. The use of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita to categorize Caribbean SIDS as middle-income countries must be raised in forums at the level of the international community; and alternative indicators must be developed to address SIDS vulnerabilities. It was also suggested that ECLAC could help in the development of alternative indicators.

8. The unique vulnerabilities of SIDS should be integrated as part of the sustainable development post-2015 agenda.

9. There should be concerted advocacy on raising resources to meet the peculiar challenges facing SIDS: among these are climate change financing and debt relief and special facilities for addressing exogenous shocks. In this respect, a highly-indebted middle-income island countries (HIMIIC) facility would be a consideration.

(c) Regional issues

10. The development of additional regional financing mechanisms such as PetroCaribe that allows countries to access energy and other resources under less onerous terms and conditions should be pursued.

11. There is need to build backbone services to increase regional connectivity and to promote production integration and the movement of people.

12. There is need for the harmonization and coordination of regional tax policies to address fiscal challenges at the regional level and to avoid harmful tax competition.

13. There is need for the subregion to develop a strategic vision that would allow for the further development of, and engagement in, regional value chains. In order to achieve this, the key sectors producing goods and services will have to be identified.

(d) Trade-related issues

14. There is need to negotiate more effective access to external markets and to utilize such access more efficiently and strategically.

15. The importance of diversifying services production (including export services) was underscored; this could include health tourism, culinary tourism and heritage tourism.

16. There is need to enable regional interconnection and to develop the social and cultural perspective which must inform the process, bearing in mind that private incentives are often at variance with social demands and requirements.

17. Creative ways must be found to raise resources for social protection. This could include crowd funding,¹ fiscal incentives and public-private sector collaboration as per the Brazilian experience.

18. The Caribbean subregion must embrace social protection policies and programmes that are designed to include all the poor eventually.

(e) Domestic issues

19. The need for fiscal consolidation to create greater fiscal space over the medium term and, at the same time, for building institutions to lock in and preserve the benefits of such policies.

20. There is need to develop fiscal responsibility through the design and implementation of fiscal rules and other mechanisms which allow SIDS to avoid additional risk and fiscal stress.

21. There should be greater focus on tax reform to expand the base and reduce high tax rates while rationalizing public expenditure for social protection. Such programmes should aim at efficiency in service delivery and at eliminating leakage/waste.

22. There is need to build fiscal covenants to ensure that the costs and benefits of adjustment are assessed and the most vulnerable are protected.

23. Data collection and analysis at the national level should be significantly strengthened to facilitate enhanced evidence-based decision making.

¹ Crowd funding entails the pooling of funds by people in cooperation networks, using the Internet for financing enterprise start-ups, disaster relief and other activities.

24. Curriculums for lifelong learning, problem-solving and learning-by-doing should be developed.
25. There is need to place greater emphasis on technical and vocational training as an integral part of the educational system since it provides vital complementary skills in the pursuit of sustainable development. This is essentially investing in the building of domestic capital through intense investment in people.
26. There is need to implement policies that place the creative and cultural industries at the centre of learning, with special emphasis on creating employment opportunities for the youth, and using such initiatives as diversion from delinquency and crime.
27. It is important to identify ways to harness public-private partnerships (PPPs) to promote investment in the creative industries and to increase employment.
28. A quantitative assessment of the creative sector is needed to determine the true value of the creative industries to economic growth.
29. There is need to develop programmes to address the preservation of coastal zones, adaptation issues and to reduce emissions through targeted programmes.
30. Energy policies focused on sustainable energy development based on South/South and SIDS/SIDS cooperation should be developed.
31. Resources for the appropriate development of the creative industries should be factored into national budgets.
32. Pan-Caribbean private information and communications technology (ICT) providers are operating with a regional focus, while local regulators are operating only at the domestic level. There is therefore a need for more dialogue among domestic regulators in the Caribbean with a view to optimizing the benefits of ICTs.
33. There is need to invest in and develop all forms of communication including backbone internet services to create opportunities for production and consumption.
34. Since social returns exceed private returns on investment in ICT and as a result, market forces alone should not determine investment decisions. Instead, investment in digital infrastructure should be addressed through a participatory model to assure social inclusion and optimise overall benefits.
35. There is need to develop methodologies and data systems to undertake the necessary research and analysis of the creative industries at the national level.
36. There is need to improve foreign language proficiency in our young people to enable them to function better in the tourism industry.
37. Active consideration should be given to diversifying the tourism product in such areas as spa and wellness, health and medical, heritage, cultural and culinary tourism.
38. The sustainable development goals of the Caribbean will be stillborn if efforts are not made to engage civil society actively in its crafting and implementation.

B. INTRODUCTION

39. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Government of Jamaica, hosted the third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable in Kingston on 23 and 24 April 2014.

40. The theme of the Roundtable was “Exploring Strategies for sustainable development in Caribbean small island developing States.”

41. The goals of the Roundtable were to assist Member states in developing a vision for addressing the vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS, through the identification of strategies for building resilience, and the facilitation of the cross-fertilization of ideas for enhancing growth and development.

42. Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and the Republic of Guyana, other high-level representatives from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda and a number of scholars and policymakers attended the meeting. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC delivered a presentation and also participated as part of several panel discussions. High-level delegates also represented United Nations Member States, regional organizations and funding agencies. The list of participants is attached at annex I to the present report.

43. The Roundtable covered the following themes:

- A growth agenda for Caribbean SIDS
- Addressing risk and uncertainty in Caribbean SIDS
- Articulating the essential elements of a Caribbean SIDS response to development challenges
- Identifying a more integral role for the private sector in the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS
- The creative industries in Caribbean SIDS: a strategic opportunity for sustainable growth and development

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES

1. Opening of the meeting

44. The Director of ECLAC subregional for the Caribbean welcomed participants to the third Caribbean Development Roundtable convened by ECLAC. She pointed out that CDR was envisaged as a forum to support development thinking, explore opportunities through cross-fertilization, make recommendations on sustainable development paths, and build bridges between the Caribbean and Latin America.

45. She paid tribute to the late Norman Girvan, Professor *Emeritus*, former member of the Plantation School of Political Economy and an active member of the New World Group, who was committed to reconstructing Caribbean society, advocating the goal of countries to determine their own development path. She noted that ECLAC had benefited from close association with him and that he had participated actively in the first Roundtable. She urged the meeting to keep his legacy alive, by focusing on building resilience in small island developing States (SIDS).

46. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed participants and observed that the green, black and gold of the Jamaica flag spoke to the optimism and resilience of the Jamaican people; their will to triumph over adversity.

47. She paid tribute to the late Professor Norman Girvan as a structural economist who asked difficult questions. She expressed her shock at his untimely passing, noting that she had been enquiring of the possibility of his serving as the first Caribbean scholar to give the Raul Prebisch lecture at ECLAC, when she learned of his accident. She quoted Girvan who said, “integration was not only economic but must be based on a community of identities and a community of cultures.” She argued that the problem of the Caribbean was due to its inherent vulnerability.

48. She alluded to the regrettable loss of life in the December rains in the Eastern Caribbean and reported that the Caribbean office would deal with disasters and their assessment in both Latin America and the Caribbean.

49. She said the principal challenges that the subregion now faced were how to generate growth in the context of limited demand, and how to pay debt obligations while maintaining social programmes. She further argued that the Caribbean needed both to improve development financing and trade opportunities, and to reenergize the integration movement. She pointed out the PETROCARIBE agreement was a good example of regional cooperation and expressed concern at the ongoing problems in Venezuela.

50. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica welcomed participants to Jamaica, noting that the presence of Alicia Barcena highlighted the special relationship with ECLAC in the area of resilience. He saluted the late Professor Norman Girvan as a Caribbean thinker and asked the meeting to observe a minute of silence in his honour. He also proposed that the Roundtable be dedicated to Professor Girvan’s memory. He reflected on the value of the Caribbean Development Roundtable as an important opportunity for high-level development dialogue. He felt that the theme of resilience was of particular importance, especially to Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean. In his view, the impact of the devastating rains in December in the Eastern Caribbean and their impact on GDP reflected the vulnerability of the subregion.

51. He spoke to the priorities of Caribbean SIDS as preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be convened in Samoa later in 2014, moved into high gear. He addressed the obligations and responsibilities of both developed and developing countries for sustainable development, indicating that assistance should be provided to SIDS to build their resilience. He underscored the need to build new global partnerships to address issues of climate change and disaster management, food security, health and non-communicable diseases, and waste management.

52. The Minister expressed the hope that the CDR would identify tangible and realistic mechanisms and global partnerships that would support strategies aimed at risk reduction. He also asked that the Roundtable identify strategies and mechanisms that Caribbean SIDS could contribute for inclusion in the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda and in the development of sustainable development goals.

53. The Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning of Jamaica said the CDR must endure to develop renewed vision and strategies to build resilience. He traced the origin of the debt crisis and the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS and pointed out the efforts made by Jamaica to generate sustained growth in the face of its challenges e.g. privatization the building of agro-parks, modernizing port facilities, legislative reforms. He noted that the prospects for growth were not bright and called for greater partnership between the international community and the Caribbean. He asked CDR to explore how we

might address the challenges we face as a result of the significant debt burden being carried in the Caribbean.

2. Presentation by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC “Strategies to stimulate growth and resilience among Caribbean small island developing States”

54. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented a growth agenda for Caribbean development. She identified the many challenges facing the region and strategies to stimulate growth. Caribbean States, she noted, were facing key structural gaps. She identified some key challenges as the continued use of per capita income to define the Caribbean as middle income, financing and reduced foreign direct investment (FDI), issues of inequality and low productivity. She argued that we needed to reduce the debt through access to concessional finance. She said there must be movement of people and greater connectivity and joint production. We also had to find complementarity among ourselves. Some 85 per cent of the countries were middle-income, and external financing was going only to a few countries. She pointed to the asymmetries in performance of the Caribbean and the need for structural change. She also talked about the need to raise the statistical capacity of the Caribbean, since “what is not measured is not recognized.”

55. The Executive Secretary argued that the region was at a crossroads, as the development model was not working, and she called for structural change for equality. She stressed that it was important for the international community to assist Caribbean SIDS through climate change financing and ways to reduce public debt. She argued for the building of local technical capacity to improve the productivity of labour and enhance growth, and for regional convergence along the lines of Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister Dookeran’s strategy to link the Caribbean with Latin America. She talked about initiatives such as PETROCARIBE and proposed that Latin America should be able to come to the Caribbean to learn English. She raised the issue of covenants to deal with costs of adjustment while maintaining social protection.

56. She also alluded to the trilogy of themes of ECLAC sessions which began with the ‘Time for equality’, followed by ‘Structural change for equality’ and, at the next session in Lima, would be focusing on issues surrounding ‘Governance for equality.’

3. Addressing risk and uncertainty in Caribbean SIDS

57. The panel was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, who introduced the session moderator. He outlined in preamble the broad parameters of Jamaica’s sustainable development strategy which included the four pillars identified, these being social, economic, institutional and environmental. He endorsed the morning’s discussions, in which these four elements had been amply outlined. He noted further the need for identifying the incentive elements which motivated people to engage in sustainable social behaviours in the interests of sustainable development. He then introduced all the panellists.

58. The first Presenter, Chief Economist in the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Jamaica, noted that the question of debt sustainability for the Caribbean required the subregion at least to deal with its fiscal challenges in order to address the debt problem fully. He observed that the matter of reducing disaster risk reduction in the countries was also an important matter in treating the debt issue. He noted that, while ostensibly there remained challenges in terms of the subregion’s middle-income status, the Caribbean needed to strengthen its fiscal institutions as one of the strategies for dealing with the debt problem, and focus on the domestic solutions that were possible. He said that debt above a certain level impacted growth. There were two broad causes of debt: high vulnerability and poor economic governance. His solutions were fiscal consolidation, structural reforms, building environmental resilience

and building institutions to capture the gains of debt adjustment. He spoke of increased transparency and fiscal rules to manage fiscal challenges. He also suggested a search for low-cost funding to reduce risk-related activities, more information available to the public and enhanced fiscal reporting.

59. The second Presenter, Senior Director, Planning and Development Unit of the Ministry of Education, Jamaica, noted that many aspects of the Caribbean's current education realities needed to be addressed in order to prepare the human talent to support the sustainable development of the Caribbean. She identified specific issues such as the upgrading of the curriculum, focusing on TVET, reengineering teacher training, and engendering the more effective use of information and communications technology (ICT) in education. She pointed out that gains in growth and development were linked to education, and that the educational system was not effective in raising productivity. She said we needed a curriculum based on standards and that technical and vocational training should be integrated into the educational system. The system should focus on learning to learn, and should help to create jobs. It should also focus on the creative arts and encourage mentoring and volunteerism. It must develop people for life learning, and teachers must be trainers of twenty-first century trainees.

60. The third Presenter, Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, first reviewed the current social dynamics, and then reflected on the Jamaican experience in social sector development, through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF). She reviewed many elements of the social situation in Jamaica including high unemployment, aging population, poverty and the status of education in the country. She then reviewed the experience of the JSIF in terms of its governance mechanisms, and its policy of community-based leadership, and targeted focus for the development of the social sector, noting that it was a home-grown mechanism for addressing the social issues in Jamaica. She ended by noting that the JSIF was now seeking to implement a locally-crafted, bottom-up social development programme to address social issues in Jamaica. She further indicated that she would like to see broader State uptake of JSIF methodologies and for there also to be greater celebration of its success.

DISCUSSION

61. The representative from the Caribbean Policy and Development Centre recalled that all three presentations noted the importance of good governance to achieve the development aspirations of the Caribbean. However, she felt that responsible governance was also important. To achieve this she also felt the need for greater space to be given to civil society organizations in the process. Further, she expressed the need for a harmonized regional approach to the strategy for engaging civil society organizations in the development experience. She felt that because of the exclusion, civil society was often forced to present strong advocacy in dealing with Governments.

62. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana referred to the debt presentation on the panel. She observed that this was the main challenge facing the subregion. She offered to share the Guyana experience in debt restructuring, and recalled that Guyana's efforts at debt restructuring had not been fully appreciated or understood, but noted that it had since borne fruit with positive results for Guyana over the past eight years. She wanted to know ways to advocate for debt relief for the Caribbean. She felt it was time for the Caribbean to seek debt relief dynamically on the multilateral front.

63. Secondly, she referred to the education presentation, and saluted the focus that has been placed on technical and vocational education and training (TVET). She observed that the focus had been on tertiary education, and noted that the youth focus had not been comprehensive in the Caribbean in a way that would enhance skills. She suggested the need for the subregion to focus on TVET.

64. The Representative from Argentina reflected on Guyana's comment on debt, and noted that Argentina was in the same situation as the Caribbean with respect to debt, and the categorization of

middle-income country status. In this regard, he offered to share insights on ways in which the Diaspora could be used to secure increased remittances. However, he noted that there was a high cost to receiving remittances, where much of it ends up back in the highly-developed markets. For example, he wondered whether the large Caribbean imports of food, if paid for from remittances did not result in repatriation of such remittances. He also noted the high cost of private credit to locals, and suggested that the key issue was how to keep much of the remittances in the country.

65. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago observed that, with respect to the debt issue, a key challenge was that the traditional measure of economic performance was GDP, which did not capture much economic activity in the Caribbean. He felt that there was need for the Caribbean to commit to doing some major advocacy in promoting a better index of development, perhaps a better measure of poverty or vulnerability, and commit to promoting a better assessment of our achievement.

66. In closing, the Chair responded to the comments by reiterating that - while there was some success in debt restructuring in the Caribbean - there was not sufficient focus on the institutional fiscal capacity necessary to take full advantage of any gains from debt restructuring. The other panellists endorsed the comments from the floor.

4. Articulating the essential elements of a Caribbean SIDS response to development challenges

67. The panel was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, who introduced the panellists.

68. The first Presenter, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Guyana, discussed the challenges of middle-income Caribbean countries and suggested some solutions to the fiscal problem. He talked about the modification of the tax system and new sources of revenue and the need for revenue authorities and the technology to increase compliance. He said that countries must justify the use of incentives and develop more realistic budgets on an accrual accounting basis. The Caribbean also needed to decentralize the budgetary process to provide more accountability and remove loss-making public enterprises. He also said that there must be transparency of fiscal policy and that such policy must be developed over the medium term – that is, over at least three years. He lamented the loss of manpower through emigration, and mentioned the need for proper training and specialists in many areas of fiscal management. He called for debt relief and debt restructuring.

69. The second Presenter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, pointed out that the majority of Caribbean countries were categorized as middle-income countries, but the range of income was extremely wide, making such a category pointless. He argued that middle-income status ignored Caribbean vulnerabilities. He noted that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas categorized countries of the Caribbean as *more developed countries* (MDCs) and *less developed countries* (LDCs), recognizing that there were differences in development between countries within the Caribbean. He commented on the difficulty of small countries in combating crime that had an international dimension. He argued that the vulnerability of the Caribbean was a permanent condition, while at the same time Saint Vincent on the Grenadines was comparable to China based on per capita income.

70. He outlined ten steps in a strategy to address the middle-income question by the end of 2014. These included:

- (i) Securing widespread support to recognize SIDS vulnerability.
- (ii) Securing commitment by multilateral bodies to measure vulnerability more broadly.

Advocating debt-forgiveness and countercyclical lending linked to exogenous shocks. He further argued for a new facility called HIMIIC (highly-indebted middle-income island countries).

- (iii) Promoting debt-for-climate swaps and pushing for climate financing.
- (iv) Fostering increased engagement at the level of South/South and SIDS/SIDS. For example, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been able to access solidarity funds from within the region. He argued that the SIDS issue was distinct and unique and should not be subsumed by other issues. Finally, he emphasized the importance of coordination.

71. The third Presenter, Director of the Bureau of Geological and Mining Research for the French West Indies and French Guyana, pointed out that Guadeloupe was highly dependent on imported energy and had significant per capita emissions. In consequence, it had created an energy policy in response to climate change whose main goal was greenhouse gas reduction and its benefits for economic development. He pointed out that both national (French) and European Union frameworks had guided their policy. He gave specific examples, such as geothermal energy and the optimization of the Government car fleet to reduce emissions. He argued for the use of innovation to create better energy efficiency. He raised coastal area management as a critical issue for the Caribbean.

DISCUSSION

72. The representative of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre said that it was inevitable that we create a Caribbean trading bloc, and that we needed harmonization of the Caribbean single market. These two points would drive development. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines agreed with her points, but suggested that a more in-depth analysis was required to determine intraregional trade and coordination of production and trade, and that the Caribbean needed to optimize existing trade relations.

73. The representative of UNESCO said that the Caribbean needed to focus on critical issues, as all issues could not be resolved at once. He said the issues had been over-diagnosed and that we now needed to focus on cures.

74. The representative of Argentina asked whether foreign direct investment (FDI) could be taxed, since foreign companies were used to tax exemptions. The first presenter responded that we needed investment that provided export earnings and created quality jobs.

75. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago noted that the economic situation in the Caribbean could have been worse during the crisis had most countries been operating fixed exchange rates, as devaluation could have led to higher inflation. In response, the first presenter stated that fixed exchange rates had been used as a major policy anchor and that they had led to structural problems reflected in low growth, fiscal deficits, high debt and high unemployment.

76. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) noted that fiscal consolidation could impact social outcomes, as getting the fiscal policy right could mean reduced levels of social protection. He also noted that tax incentives for FDI, although not very beneficial for the Caribbean, were an important factor in increasing the subregion's attractiveness to these flows. The Deputy Governor of the Bank of Guyana responded that fiscal consolidation need not reduce social protection, especially in a time of need. He noted that what was required was to prioritize spending and reduce wasteful expenditure that did not promote growth or alleviate poverty. He noted that international best practice required countercyclical expenditure, but that that was not beneficial if not focused on

productive investment such as infrastructure. He emphasized the need for proper cost-benefit analysis of different investment projects.

77. The focal point for Haiti at ECLAC in referring to integration, noted that Guadeloupe and Martinique were part of France, and that this could result in barriers to trade with other Caribbean countries. In response, the presenter noted that the case was not as special as it seemed, and that both islands had been developing ties with CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines noted that OECS had developed strong cooperation with Guadeloupe and Martinique, and that French companies were investing in geothermal energy in Dominica, for instance, and there was also strong cooperation in the monitoring of natural disasters.

78. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago emphasized the role of building social capital in reducing vulnerability. He suggested that the subregion was haemorrhaging from the loss of intellectual capital due to migration. As a result, the Caribbean was, in effect, subsidizing developed countries by investing in the training of these migrants. He noted that, in discussing sustainable development, social capital must be addressed to help the Caribbean enter into global value chains. He recommended that the subregion prioritize the building-up of social capital significant enough to reduce vulnerability and strengthen economic performance.

79. The Chairperson, in summing up, indicated that migration was not about to stop. The Caribbean would therefore have to explore how best to leverage the benefits of migration. She indicated that the subregion could have specific agreements and contracts, as has been done in Guyana with the export of teachers to Ghana. She supported the view expressed by the representative of UNESCO that the subregion has been over diagnosing its problems and should instead be looking practical solutions to them.

80. She suggested that the results of this third roundtable should be filtered to other mechanisms, including CARICOM, which could implement some of its ideas. She highlighted two issues to carry forward:

- (i) The middle-income classification, underscoring the need for acknowledgement of the existing asymmetries in development among middle-income countries
- (ii) The heavily-indebted nature of the Caribbean. Moreover, the regulatory requirements of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) added to the cost of doing business in the Caribbean. She highlighted the case of the Bahamas, which has been required to reduce tariffs by 15 per cent in order to gain admission to the World Trade Organization.

81. She noted that the subregion will have to work beyond the SIDS meeting in Samoa, to influence other forums and to build political consensus. She further noted that the Caribbean needed a covenant or pact to get continuity on key structural issues. She highlighted the cooperation between Brazil and Guyana in developing hydropower as a good example of the type of partnership that the Caribbean should explore and pursue.

82. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica emphasized that it was clear that the Caribbean was at a crossroads. He questioned whether the architects of the Washington Consensus were really aware of the challenges being faced by middle-income countries. He suggested that the Caribbean had not, since the days of slavery, enjoyed a serious position in the global economy and trade. He posed the question of how the Caribbean could recapture that lost position in the global economy. He asked whether the subregion was prepared to be bold to the point of being unpopular in advocating for development cooperation with its traditional partners.

83. He emphasized that the Caribbean had suffered for too long from the tyranny of its fragmented state, and that the subregion could lose significant gains if it remained fragmented.

5. Identifying a more integral role for the private sector in the sustainable development of the Caribbean small island developing States

84. This agenda item addressed the role of the private sector in development planning and emphasized workable strategies for building a resilient service economy.

85. The first Presenter, the Deputy Programme Manager for Services at CARICOM, highlighted the importance of the services sector to GDP and employment in the subregion. He indicated that the services sector was poorly defined and vast in coverage, and that CARICOM was developing a strategic plan for services in the Caribbean. He listed some of the constraints faced by the subregion and noted that the Caribbean was still recovering from the global financial crisis. He proposed a recovery path based on increased tariff rates to stimulate domestic production. He indicated the need to diversify service production and negotiate visa waivers for Caribbean service providers. He also identified the need for a harmonized regulatory framework, intellectual property and financial services infrastructure.

86. The second Presenter, an Internet Strategist and Caribbean internet services Outreach Manager, stated that the potential of technology in the subregion had not been realized, but that it could be used to overcome resource constraints and amplify capacity if connectivity constraints could be addressed. He stressed that the Caribbean could not benefit from the digital economy if it did not invest in technology. He pointed out that technology transcended national borders and should therefore be dealt with at a subregional level. Since social returns exceeded the private returns of investing in ICT, investment decisions should not be dependent on the influence of market forces alone. Rather, investment in digital infrastructure should be addressed through a participatory model in order to assure social inclusion.

87. The third Presenter, the President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association, addressed on “Diversifying the tourism product: identifying growth nodes”. She underscored that tourism was key to Caribbean development and well-being. She pointed out that total Caribbean tourist arrivals had tripled since 1980 and were projected to continue growing to 2030. Tourism in Jamaica contributed between 7.3 per cent and 8.1 per cent to GDP annually. She identified four potential growth nodes for tourism - spa and wellness, health and medical, heritage and cultural, and culinary - that could have considerable multiplier effect on other sectors. She emphasized that the Caribbean needed to adapt to changes in travel and tourism and to address the needs of new travellers.

DISCUSSION

88. The representative of Spain suggested that the strengths of the public and private sectors should be combined. He gave the example of the Canary Islands – which shared the characteristics and vulnerabilities of SIDS – as a successful public-private partnership. The third presenter responded that the Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association engaged in strong partnerships with the Government of Jamaica.

89. The representative of Argentina asked how the cost of capital affected doing business. He asked whether there were ways of reducing the interest-rate spread. He mentioned to the President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association that he assumed the big rise in arrivals in Jamaica was due to the rise of China and asked whether the Caribbean was prepared for the huge projected rise in Chinese tourists. He said there was room to develop more small hotels.

90. The Deputy Programme Manager for Services at CARICOM responded that the cost of capital was high because of the geographical fragmentation of the countries.

91. The President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association responded that growth in tourism was due to Canadian tourists and investment from Spain. She said that air transport between China and the Caribbean still needed to be improved and that Caribbean Ministries of Education needed to prioritize foreign-language learning. She said that the people who had small tourism plant did not have access to capital and that there was need to match capacity with capital. She said that intra-Caribbean travel was important for heritage tourism but suffered due to the high cost of airlift.

92. The ECLAC focal point for Haiti commented that the tourism sector had a challenge of real and virtual boundaries, and he highlighted the importance of the informal services sector in the Caribbean. He asked the Internet Strategist and Caribbean internet services Outreach Manager, how to deal with the regulation issue relating to technology, specifically in terms of market share to avoid monopolies. He stressed the importance of regional branding to reap the benefits of economies of scale.

93. The Internet Strategist responded that there needed to be a structural approach to collaboration between Caribbean countries to maximize technological benefits from pan-Caribbean ICT service providers operating in local markets and to avoid conflicts of private versus national interests in development.

94. The Deputy Programme Manager for Services at CARICOM said that distribution was the largest services subsector and that persons in that subsector had strong linkages to the informal sector, and therefore, the more that was sold to the informal sector, the more activity was to be seen in the formal sector.

95. The Foreign Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines raised the issue of coordination of ICT investment to avoid the need to grant extensive tax concessions by individual countries. He agreed with the need for local content and asked how content production could be encouraged without Government intervention.

96. The Internet Strategist and Caribbean internet services Outreach Manager responded that local content needed to be defined. He insisted that public information dissemination should be counted as local content.

97. The representative of Jamaica stated that data-collection was poor because the services sector was ill-defined. He emphasized the need to diversify the services sector through ICT and recalled the Executive Secretary's point that the services-producing countries in the Caribbean were growing slower than goods-producing countries.

98. The Chairperson, in closing, raised the issues of the high cost of energy in the Caribbean and the deficient travel and transportation infrastructure and he also observed that the private sector needed to be more actively engaged, and included in discussions such as these.

6. The creative industries in Caribbean SIDS: a strategic opportunity for sustainable growth and development

99. This panel addressed the contribution and potential of the creative industries in the Caribbean for promoting sustainable growth. It considered measurement issues, the enabling environment, the role of youth and the infrastructure and incentives needed for its development. The objective of this agenda item was to locate the creative industries strategically in advancing sustainable development.

100. The Chairperson of the panel, the Deputy Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM welcomed the participants and introduced the panellists for the session. She

also thanked ECLAC for the opportunity to participate on the panel and reflected on the importance of treating with the creative sector as an avenue for stimulating growth in Caribbean SIDS. She observed that the sector was dynamic and predicated on innovation. Moreover, it often provided space for the young, the poor and the dispossessed to earn a living, and contributed to the evolution and promotion of the cultural identity of the Caribbean. She emphasized that the Caribbean had a definite comparative advantage in the creative sector.

101. The first Presenter, Senior Research Fellow, University of Technology, Jamaica, introduced his discussion by focusing on the challenges in measuring the value of copyright sector, and the data challenges related to achieving this. He began by asserting that Copyright was another form of property rights. He pointed out that the goal of his current work in copyright was to show its value as an important contributor to GDP, output and employment in the Caribbean.

102. He outlined that a key lesson learned from this work over the past fifteen years was that the Caribbean had failed to demonstrate the causal relation between copyright and economic growth. He further lamented that the Caribbean had failed to provide the data necessary to show the copyright sector to be a major pillar of Caribbean development. He indicated that only the big institutions of the Caribbean (CARICOM, national Governments, ECLAC, Caribbean Development Bank) had the capacity to put the data systems in place for this work, but that they had not—so far—done so. He reflected on some of his work for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in this regard, and pointed out a limitation in the WIPO strategy in that it did not engage the domestic statistical agencies actively in establishing the causality of copyright to productivity growth.

103. He noted, however, that this strategic problem also existed in the Caribbean, due in part to the challenge of defining copyright.

104. He stressed that the issue was one of identifying the relevant set of International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) codes, as well as the externalities associated with the use of copyright in the economy of the Caribbean. He also indicated the need for proper random sampling methodologies – small samples tended to be pervasive in the Caribbean – in order to be able to make good estimates of the contribution of copyright to the subregional economy.

105. The Presenter also reflected on the limitations of Caribbean countries to undertake the necessary surveys, and referenced the experience in this activity in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Lucia. He concluded that the problem of measuring causality in the Caribbean results in a methodology which treats with a large amount of estimation ‘noise’, and these measures were just a very small indicator of the effects of copyright on the economy. He emphasized that he could not prove causality, however, in order to make effective policies for creative economy.

106. He emphasized that if the Caribbean was serious about the creative economy, it was imperative that the necessary data be provided for this type of assessment. In this regard, he noted that data for evidence-based decision-making in the subregion was quite deficient, and that the most that the results of this analysis could do for the Caribbean was to validate the subregion’s hope that copyright could actually contribute significantly to Caribbean development.

107. On that basis, he concluded that:

- (i) The WIPO approach to assessing the benefits of copyright suffered from important limitations in the Caribbean, since it focused on using external consultants;
- (ii) The cost was prohibitive – only affordable by large institutions;

- (iii) Copyrighted industry has been changing rapidly, such that the distribution of returns in the value chain has been declining for Caribbean economies.

108. He suggested that ICTs were changing copyright in the commons, and cited the examples of Amazon, iTunes, and Spotify, among others. This suggested the need to rethink Caribbean strategy in the following ways:

- (i) Governments will have to lobby the appropriate international bodies for support in securing intellectual property returns.
- (ii) Resources for the development of the creative industries should be factored into national budgets.

109. He cited the following proposals of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to address some of the issues raised above:

- (i) The Caribbean needed to focus on fair remuneration rather than exclusion of some groups in the sector
- (ii) Policymakers should emphasise greater transparency and openness in dealing with the sector
- (iii) The subregion should confront the challenges and risks that had been posed by the current assessment model

110. Nevertheless, he observed that there was one advantage for the Caribbean with respect to the creative economy relative to other sectors, which was much higher relative efficiency in the use of foreign exchange. This, he suggested, was very positive for the Caribbean subregion.

111. The second Presenter, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Jamaica, reflected on the centrality of people to growth. She observed that the traditional growth models had failed, given their reliance on the assembly of material inputs in production and the exclusion of people.

112. She positioned her discourse around music, dance, poetry and literature. She suggested that creativity was a random process, and explored a range of psychological, sociological and anthropological roles of the creative industry in the Caribbean.

113. She underscored the need to expose and introduce Caribbean children to the creative sector at an early age. She highlighted the importance of using creative industry in education and in building self-esteem in young children and Caribbean peoples. She questioned the scope of returns on investment in music and art in education and asked how the subregion could close the digital divide.

114. In concluding, she introduced a cautionary note; she observed that unused creativity did not disappear but rather, metastasized, and ultimately could result in deviant behaviour.

115. The third Presenter, Co-Chair of the CARICOM Regional Task Force on Cultural Industries, spoke about a range of issues relating to creative industries. He observed the difficulty in demarcating between culture and creative industries, noting that these were not strictly the same. He suggested the need to focus on the 'industry' part of the creative industries since this would lead to a broader perspective on the role of the sector in the growth of the economy.

116. He lamented that although in the Caribbean the sector has developed significantly, there continued to be limited policy support, data, and regulation. Further, development in the sector would require substantial capacity development. He also recognized the need for a comprehensive assessment of the creative economy in order to determine the true economic potential of the sector. This, he asserted,

should be supported by adequate data-gathering in order to gauge progress. He suggested that the role of Governments in developing the sector was critical to minimizing bottlenecks to the development of the sector. He also noted that the Caribbean needed to look at best practices, as a source of insight in the promotion of creative economy and also noted that the educational system needed to be revamped in order to stimulate, rather than stifle, the creativity and ingenuity of young children.

117. In concluding, he recommended a practical approach that emphasized the need to be cognisant of the fact that the sector needed global space to grow.

118. The fourth Presenter, Senior Lecturer, Cultural Studies at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, examined the question of why the Caribbean had not been able to exploit its creativity fully in the development of its economies. She proposed that, while the Caribbean had a high level of creativity, it did not, in fact, have a creative industry and posited that a bottom-up approach was lacking. Nevertheless, she commended CARICOM for its efforts to place the creative industries on the policy agenda for development in the Caribbean. Moreover, she reiterated that a major challenge in assessing the benefits of creative economy to the Caribbean remained the deficiency of data to inform the development of the sector fully. She also observed that most of the Caribbean creative economy's development has not been led from within the subregion, but has been driven by external forces.

119. In addition, the Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies suggested that the time had come for putting music first in the Caribbean development strategy. She emphasized that while many multilateral agencies have undertaken specific projects, sustained follow-up from local stakeholders, Governments, and even the multilateral agencies themselves, was non-existent. She pondered the prospects of holding music championships in the wider Caribbean in order to stimulate the development of creative talent in the local economy. She asserted that the Jamaican music industry needed significant research and specified a range of issues that needed to be addressed, including the level of music sales at festivals and other events, Jamaica's market share in the sector, and the need for collaboration in documentation and providing data on music goods and music sales.

DISCUSSION

120. The Chairperson inquired whether the estimates obtained from assessment of the benefits of copyright were credible, or usable. The first presenter responded that the estimates were noisy but that he could not say exactly how usable they were.

121. The representative of UNESCO commented that there was need for an overall concept for the development of the creative industry in the Caribbean. She also lamented the lack of data on the sector, observing that because of this lack of information it was difficult to determine how the sector should evolve. She also emphasised the need for an enabling environment to advance the development of the creative industries in the subregion.

122. The ECLAC Focal Point for Haiti commended the panel for the presentations, and noted that despite the lack of data for assessing the benefit of the creative industries, like the situation with climate change 30 years ago, the data issue would eventually be resolved if the countries persevered in tackling it.

123. The representative of Argentina reflected on the admonition of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC that the subregion needed to strive to create a community of culture. He suggested that this was a good strategy for the Caribbean since it had a strong heritage that involved many different peoples from all over the world, which enriched the Caribbean experience.

124. The representative of the Caribbean Policy and Development Centre questioned the role of the creative industries in academia in the Caribbean. She suggested that there was a role for the University of the West Indies in this regard.

125. The Foreign Minister of Guyana stated that because the Caribbean had not nurtured the creativity of its youths, it was now challenged since creative energy was being used in deviant behaviour in our societies. She cited the case of Venezuela which addressed this issue by engaging its youths in music as a national strategy. She wondered whether there was any possibility of making music education compulsory in the Caribbean.

126. Secondly, she reflected on the copyright issue in the context of copied text books used in Guyana. She questioned how Caribbean countries could deal with this issue while reconciling the need for meeting the educational needs of its citizens, with the requirements to comply with copyright legislation.

127. In response the Co-Chair of the CARICOM Regional Task Force on Cultural Industries pointed out, with respect to academic involvement in the creative industries, that UWI had some programmes, although there were limitations in terms of graduate level studies and research.

128. The second Presenter, in responding to the question from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana's question, encouraged the Caribbean for writing its own educational material for use in the subregional educational sector.

129. In terms of the creative sector, she suggested that the creative sector should be classified as an industry as was done with tourism, which would be likely to stimulate the development of the creative industry in the subregion.

130. The Chairperson, in concluding, reflected on the value of compulsory education, and observed that it had played a significant role in the development of the arts in Jamaica. She proposed that it could be valuable in the future development of the creative economy in the Caribbean.

7 . Closing of the meeting

131. The Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica brought the session to a close and thanked the participants for their engagement during the two days of meetings.

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

- Denise Knight, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration

CUBARepresentative:

- H.E. Bernardo Guanche Hernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Jamaica

Delegation member:

- Ramiro de León Torras, Specialist, Directorate for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

DOMINICAN REPUBLICRepresentative:

- H.E. José Tomás Ares Germán, Ambassador, Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Jamaica

GUYANARepresentative:

- Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs

JAMAICARepresentative:

- Hon. Arnold Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Delegation members:

- Hon. Peter Phillips, Minister of Finance and Planning
- Hon. Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Paul Robotham, Ambassador, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Barbara Allen^{*}, Director, Planning and Development Unit, Ministry of Education
- Lisa Bryan Smart, Assistant Director, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Colin Bullock^{*}, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Shernette Burton, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Winsome Chambers-Andrews, Research Analyst, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Katherine Chen, Social Officer, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Scarlette Gillings^{*}, Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Everton Mc Farlane^{*}, Chief Economist, Economic Policy Coordination and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Planning
- Loy Malcolm, General Manager, Project Management, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Janice Miller, Undersecretary, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Sharon Miller, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Vonroy Rochester, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Kimberley Wilson, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst, Jamaica Social Investment Fund

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Representative:

- Hon. Patrice Nisbett, Minister of Foreign Affairs

SAINT LUCIA

Representative:

- Hon. Alva Baptiste, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Representative:

- Senator Hon. Camillo Gonsalves^{*}, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs

SURINAME

Representative:

- Shefferon Kartowikromo, Second Secretary, Embassy of Suriname of Trinidad and Tobago

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative:

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

Delegation members:

- Theresa Noel Belasco, First Secretary, Head of Chancery, High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Jamaica

B. Associate members

BERMUDA

Representative:

- Charles Brown, Director of Sustainable Development Department

CURAÇAO

Representative:

- Joëlle De Jong-Mercelina, Deputy Director, Directorate of Foreign Relations

Delegation member:

- Arthur Nieuw, Senior Policy Officer, Directorate of Foreign Relations

GUADELOUPE

Representative:

- Thérèse Marianne-Pépin, President of the Cooperation Committee, Regional Council of Guadeloupe

Delegation member:

- Ingrid Soudan, Officer responsible for the ECLAC desk, Regional Cooperation Bureau, Regional Council of Guadeloupe

C. Observers

ARGENTINA

Representative:

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

Delegation member:

- Juan Jorge Nuñez, Minister at the Embassy of the Republic of Argentina in Jamaica

BRAZIL

Representative

- Afonso Celso Nery, Counsellor, Embassy of Brazil in Jamaica

CANADA

Representative

- Robert Ready, High Commission of Canada in Jamaica

CHILE

Representative

- H.E. Eduardo Bonilla, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile in Jamaica

COLOMBIA

Representative

- William Bush, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Colombia in Jamaica

Delegation member:

- Daniel Rojas, Naval Attaché, Embassy of Colombia in Jamaica

COSTA RICA

Representative

- Tanishia Ellis Hayles, Chargée d’Affaires, Embassy of Costa Rica in Jamaica

GERMANY

Representative

- Michael Dumke, Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jamaica

JAPAN

Representative:

- H.E. Yasuo Takase, Ambassador of Japan in Jamaica

Delegation member:

- Hiromoto Oyama, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Jamaica

MEXICO

Representative:

- H.E. Gerardo Lozano Arredondo, Ambassador of Mexico in Jamaica

PANAMA

Representative

- Jorge Constantino, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama in Jamaica

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representative

- Seong Hoon Kim, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Jamaica

SINT MAARTEN

Representative:

- Khalilah Peters, Head (a.i.), Directorate of Foreign Relations

Delegation members:

- Joy Arnell, Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labour
- Okama Brook, Senior Policy Adviser, Department of Interior Affairs Kingdom Relations

SPAIN

Representative

- H.E. Celsa Nuño, Ambassador of Spain in Jamaica

Delegation member:

- Fernando Fernández-Arias, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
- Victoria Tur Gómez, Chargée d'Affaires Embassy of Spain in Jamaica
- Carlos Moret, Project Manager AECID-CARICOM, Spanish Agency for Cooperation, Venezuela

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representative

- Kevin Daucher, Second Secretary, Political and Economic Section, Embassy of the United States of America in Jamaica

VENEZUELA

- H.E. Maria Mendoza, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Jamaica

D. Other Member States of the United Nations

NIGERIA

- Olutola Martin Obafemi, Minister Consular and Political Affairs, Nigeria High Commission in Jamaica

E. United Nations Programmes and Funds

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Arun Kashyap, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Jamaica
- Asha Bobb-Semple, Programme Associate - Policy Support, UNDP Jamaica Office

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Sheila Roseau, Director, UNFPA subregional Office in Jamaica

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative in Jamaica
- Joaquin Gonzales Aleman, Regional Social Policy Adviser, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office

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

- Christine Arab, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean

F. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- John Ronald D. Ford, Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO)

- Christine Anne Norton, Director, UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office
- Cesar Toro, Programme Specialist, Natural Science, UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office

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

- Margarete Sköld, Country Representative for Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Jamaica, Regional Office in Jamaica

World Bank (WB)

- Galina Sotirova, Operations Advisor

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Bert Van Selm, Resident Representative in Jamaica

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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

G. Other intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)

- Jeanelle Van Glaanenweygel, OAS Representative in Jamaica

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Richard Bernal, Senior Counselor for Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Washington D.C. Office

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

- Carla Barnett*, Vice-President Operations

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development
- Timothy Odle*, Deputy Programme Manager – Services
- Evelyn Wayne, Director, Economic Policy and Development

Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

- Maryam Amsale, Chairperson

H. Donor agencies

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Denise Herbol, Mission Director, USAID Office in Jamaica

I. Other Institutions

University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Patsy Lewis, Professor, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Mona Campus, Jamaica

J. Panellists

- Adrian Augier, Co-Chair, CARICOM Regional Task Force on Cultural Industries
- Gobind Ganga, Deputy Governor, Bank of Guyana
- Vanus James, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Distinguished Professor, University of Technology, Jamaica
- Jean-Marc Mompelat, Director, Bureau of Geological and Mining Research for the French West Indies and French Guyana
- Evelyn Smith, President, Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association
- Sonjah Stanley Niaah, Senior Lecturer, Cultural Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica
- Judith Ann Wedderburn, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Jamaica
- Bevil Wooding, Internet Strategist and Caribbean Outreach Manager, Packet Clearing House

K. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary
- Omar Bello, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director (a.i.), Coordinator, Economic Development Unit
- Charmaine Gomes, Coordinator, Sustainable Development Unit
- Michael Hendrickson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Willard Phillips, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development Unit
- Dale Alexander, Computer Information and System Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Machel Pantin, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne, Staff Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Ana Fernández, Staff Assistant, Social Development unit and Statistics Unit

ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

- Randolph Gilbert, Coordinator and Focal Point for Haiti

* Panellist

Annex II**PROGRAMME****Day 1**

0830 hrs - 0900 hrs **Registration**

0900 hrs - 0945 hrs **Opening of the meeting** (agenda item 1)

Welcome by Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters, Port of Spain

Statement by The Honourable Arnold J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Remarks by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Address by The Honourable Peter D. Phillips, Minister of Finance and Planning

0945hrs - 1015 hrs **A growth agenda for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** (agenda item 2)

Ms. Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

This presentation will propose a growth agenda for SIDS within the context/efforts to build resilience and minimize risk. It will examine the main challenges facing the Caribbean, and identify key strategies to overcome them and stimulate sustainable growth and development.

1015 hrs - 1030 hrs **Coffee break**

1030 hrs - 1130 hrs **Addressing risk and uncertainty in Caribbean SIDS** (agenda item 3)
This panel will include presentations that consider specific challenges facing the Caribbean, including issues of economic and financial management, education and training, and the need to strengthen both technical and institutional capacity in the society.

Chairperson: Mr. Colin Bullock, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Presenter: Mr. Everton McFarlane, Chief Economist, Economic Policy Coordination and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Jamaica

The debt issue among middle income developing countries: How to resolve the challenges

Presenter: Ms. Barbara Allen, Senior Director, Planning & Development Unit, Ministry of Education, Jamaica

Education to transform Caribbean SIDS: Preparing the workforce for sustainable growth

Presenter: Mrs. Scarlett Gillings, Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund

A social covenant: Integrating demographic trends into sustainable development planning

Discussion

1130 hrs - 1300 hrs **Lunch**

1300 hrs **Articulating the essential elements of a Caribbean SIDS response to development challenges** (agenda item 4)

This panel will address some of the emerging issues deserving careful consideration, such as dealing with the debt burden and the need for a strategy to address Caribbean SIDS middle income status and its implications. The intent is to explore new avenues in the search for meaningful solutions to these critical challenges.

Chairperson: The Honourable Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana

Presenter: Dr. Gobind Ganga, Deputy Governor, Bank of Guyana
Exploring solutions to fiscal challenges in Caribbean SIDS

Presenter: The Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
A strategic response to the middle income status of Caribbean SIDS

Presenter: Mr. Jean-Marc Mompelat, Director, Bureau of Geological and Mining Research for the French West Indies and French Guyana
Implementing a virtuous dynamic to meet climate change challenges: the example of Guadeloupe

Discussion

End of Day 1

Day 2

08:30 hrs - 10:30hrs **Identifying a more integral role for the private sector in the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS** (agenda item 5)

This agenda item addresses the role of the private sector in development planning and emphasizes workable strategies for building a resilient service economy.

Chairperson: Dr. Carla Barnett, Vice President, Operations, Caribbean Development Bank

Presenter: Mr. Timothy Odle, Deputy Programme Manager – Services, CARICOM

Diversifying the service sector for economic recovery and stimulating growth

Presenter: Mr. Bevil Wooding, Internet Strategist and Caribbean Outreach Manager, Packet Clearing House

The role of information and communication technology in unlocking the development potential among SIDS

Presenter: Mrs. Evelyn Smith, President, Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association

Diversifying the tourism product: identifying growth nodes

Discussion

1030 hrs - 1045 hrs **Coffee break**

1045 hrs - 1200 hrs **The creative industries in Caribbean SIDS: A strategic opportunity for sustainable growth and development** (agenda item 6)

This panel discussion will address the contribution and potential of the creative industries in the Caribbean for promoting sustainable growth. It will consider measurement issues, the enabling environment, the role of youth and the infrastructure and incentives needed for its development. The objective of this agenda item is to locate the creative industries strategically in advancing sustainable development.

Chairperson: Dr. Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM

Panellist: Mr. Vanus James, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Distinguished Professor, University of Technology, Jamaica

Panellist: Mr. Adrian Augier, Co-Chair, CARICOM Regional Task Force on Cultural Industries

Panellist: Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah, Senior Lecturer, Cultural Studies, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

1200 hrs

Closing of the meeting

The Honourable Arnold J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean