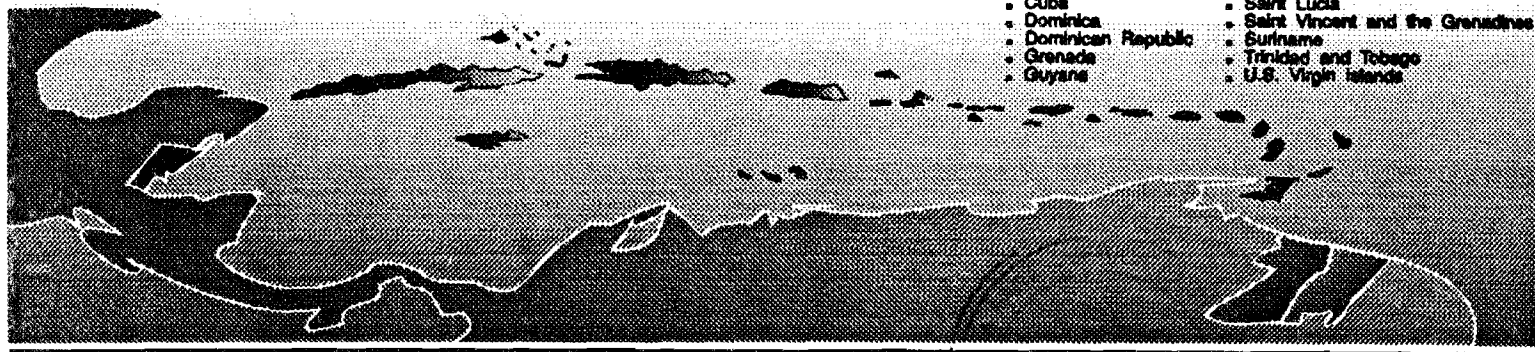




- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



Second Caribbean Meeting Preparatory to
the World Summit for Social Development
6-8 December 1994
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.431
21 December 1994
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN: GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Report of the Second Caribbean Meeting Preparatory to
the World Summit for Social Development

21 FEB 1995



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN: GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Report of the Second Caribbean Meeting Preparatory to the World Summit for Social Development

1. The Second Caribbean Meeting preparatory to the World Summit for Social Development took place on 6-8 December 1994 at the Royal Antiguan Hotel, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. This second subregional meeting of public sector officials, academics and representatives of various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) was organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and co-sponsored by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Participants from twenty CDCC member countries discussed the three core issues before the Social Summit - poverty, social integration and expansion of productive employment.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of Meeting

2. At the opening session, statements were made by Mr. D. Blanchard, Director of the ECLAC/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) secretariat, Mrs. H. T. Perret-Nguyen, Director of the ILO Caribbean Office, Mrs. M. Newman-Williams, Director, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office, Mr. K.V.R. Moorthy, UNFPA Director for the Caribbean, Mr. J. Van Eyndhoven, Resident Representative, UNDP, Port of Spain and Dr. B. Yankey, Director, OECS Economic Affairs Secretariat. The Honourable J. St. Luce, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda delivered the feature address.

3. In his opening statement, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean thanked the co-sponsoring organizations for their contribution to this preparatory meeting.

4. The Director informed participants that in fulfilment of its mandate to organize regional preparatory activities for such United Nations World Conferences, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean had convened two preparatory meetings for the World Social Summit. The first, which was held in Port of Spain in November, 1993, endeavoured to bring the issues of the Social Summit to the attention of decision makers and reviewed preliminary papers on poverty, unemployment and social integration. The second meeting, it was hoped, would provide a singular opportunity for the various players in the social equation to come together and balance their views into a succinct, action-oriented set of action proposals.

5. The Director of the ILO Caribbean Office, in her opening statement, commented on the unprecedented employment crisis affecting all regions of the world, including Latin

America and the Caribbean, and which had exacerbated problems of social exclusion and poverty. She informed that the ILO's perspective was that solving the unemployment crisis was the key to restoring hope and social cohesion and raising living standards. She stated that the ILO had identified a need for a central place to be given to the expansion of full, productive and freely-chosen employment as a basis for combatting poverty.

6. The ILO was convinced that this effort towards a more integrated approach to policy-making at both the national and international levels, in order to reconcile social and economic objectives, would contribute to a better understanding of the interrelated themes of the Summit. She reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to working with governments and other social partners in the Caribbean.

7. In her opening statement, the UNICEF representative informed participants that finding solutions to these critical problems facing people the world over in the decade of the 1990s, started with the World Summit for Children in September 1990. She observed a parallel between children and small island states, commenting that their similarities were in their smallness and vulnerability, and that unfortunately the concerns of the small and vulnerable were usually forgotten. She emphasized that whether the issue was poverty, employment generation or social integration, a society's capacity to break intergenerational cycles of marginalization, unemployment and social integration were inextricably linked with the manner in which development priorities were decided, and in the importance given to children and to those who were most often responsible for them - women.

8. She identified the need for a new conceptual framework for development that was based on a balanced interaction between the forces that shape the economy and the people who make up the society. She felt that there should be a balance between the resources allocated to the economic and social sectors of the countries. She suggested that the international community needed to achieve this balance by ensuring that the resources they made available for development cooperation supported a human development agenda.

9. The UNFPA Director for the Caribbean, was pleased to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and the OECS in supporting this preparatory meeting for the Social Summit. He informed that the UNFPA viewed the Summit as a component of a continuing process of social reform. He further stated that population issues were inherent in each of the three major themes of the Summit. He believed that it was essential that the gains and achievements recorded so far from the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (SIDS) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) be further strengthened through reiteration of the issues, perceptions and action programmes recorded at these conferences. He hoped that the Social Summit would take the process one step further and reaffirm those ICPD experiences and conclusions which were relevant to social development concerns.

10. The Resident Representative of the UNDP, in his opening statement, suggested that while the successes of the past were impressive, there was need to design a new plan of

action to address the development challenges of the next 50 years. He informed that the UNDP 1994 Human Development Report offered six concrete proposals for consideration at the Social Summit: a World Social Charter, a reduction in global military spending, a 20:20 compact for human development, a global human security fund, a new framework for development cooperation and an Economic Security Council in the United Nations. He emphasized that the UNDP would lend its full support to initiatives such as these and assured that the UNDP was fully conscious of its responsibility, and was extending all possible assistance for the success of the Social Summit.

11. The Director of the OECS Economic Affairs Secretariat commented that at the recent OECS Heads of Government Meeting in Dominica in May 1994 it was decided to develop an OECS Social Development Charter which would complement the Economic Development Charter of the OECS. He believed that the pillar of social development should be community life and that the countries of this subregion had to develop a consensus that each individual was in a position to contribute to national development. He recommended that social cohesion and development could be achieved through the implementation of the following: support to small business development; special attention to reduce crime and regionally-coordinated activities to reduce the drug trade; and rehabilitation facilities for recovering drug addicts. Sports should be included as a priority area for investment; attention should be given to the cultural life of rural communities and the employment it creates, and prime focus should be placed on the youth in society.

12. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, welcomed the participants to Antigua and Barbuda. He noted that the Caribbean subregion had always played an active role in global conferences and was still doing so through this preparatory meeting for the World Social Summit. He commented that Caribbean countries were in a unique position since they were viewed as too small to make an impact but yet not poor enough to be considered poor. He stated that, because the problems of the subregion were exacerbated by natural disasters, small islands had to look to tourism. He also identified out-migration as a problem to which a solution had to be found.

Agenda item 2 - Election of Officers

13. The meeting elected a Bureau of Officers, comprising:

Chairman:	Ambassador Lionel Hurst, Antigua and Barbuda
First Vice-Chairman:	Ms. Monique Essed-Fernandes, Organization for Women in Development, Suriname and
Second Vice-Chairman:	Professor Neville Duncan, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Agenda item 3 - Adoption of the Agenda

14. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Procedural matters
5. Presentation on preparatory activities at the global level for the World Summit for Social Development
6. A Caribbean perspective on the World Summit for Social Development:
 - (a) *The World Summit for Social Development: A Caribbean Perspective* - presentation by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
 - (b) *Employment Promotion in the Caribbean: The Imperative for Action* - presentation by the ILO Caribbean Office
 - (b) *Caribbean NGO Regional Preparatory Activities for the World Summit for Social Development* - presentation by the Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women
7. Social development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action
 - (a) Reduction and eradication of poverty
 - (b) Expansion of productive employment
 - (c) Enhancement of social integration
8. Adoption of *Social Development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action*
9. Any other business.

A list of participants is included as an Annex to this report.

Agenda item 4 - Procedural matters

15. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat informed that the objectives of the meeting were to: ensure an adequate Caribbean perspective on the issues to be dealt with at the Social Summit; agree on a document which would constitute a Caribbean input into the Summit; provide a consensual basis for informing national-level preparatory activity and presentations; and produce a set of Guidelines for Action which, in addition to contributing to the Summit, would also assist policy formulation and decision-making on social development issues at the national level in the Caribbean.

16. The secretariat informed that working groups would be appointed to deal with each of the three core issues: social integration, employment expansion and poverty. The groups would prepare draft guidelines for action to be adopted by the meeting.

**Agenda item 5 - Presentation on preparatory activities at the
global level for the World Summit for Social Development**

17. Ambassador Annette des Isles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed the meeting on this issue.

18. Ambassador des Isles traced the history of the Summit and made reference to meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Summit which were held in January 1994 and August 1994, and the Inter-sessional meeting in October 1994 which agreed on a Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action for the Summit. The Ambassador ended by stating that there was still time before the Programme of Action became final, and that the Caribbean subregion would be able to contribute to the finalization of the document.

19. A representative from UNDP, New York informed the meeting of NGO involvement in the preparatory process. The meeting was informed that at the first preparatory conference the NGO participation was weak; however, at the second preparatory conference the NGOs were very visible. National and non-national NGOs attended, including some NGOs who were part of government delegations.

20. The NGOs expressed general and specific concerns. The general concerns were that the Summit should address the roots of poverty, unemployment and social integration. The NGOs felt that poor people needed to be viewed not as victims but as participants; there was a need to establish linkages between the various United Nations conferences and that national priorities could not be implemented unless there was NGO representation. They also addressed specific areas of concern: the need for reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, reduction of the debt burden, safety nets were needed to deal with the effects of the Uruguay Round, the need to curb the arms trade and the impact of bio-technology on farmers' livelihoods.

21. A delegate from Antigua and Barbuda informed the meeting that it had been decided in New York that the Draft Programme of Action and the Draft Declaration would constitute one document. The meeting was reminded that the chapter of the Draft Programme that dealt with "Implementation and Follow-up" were very important to developing countries and that countries should pay attention to it. She also informed that the Group of 77 was working very hard to ensure that the concerns of the developing countries were taken account of.

**Agenda item 6 - A Caribbean perspective on the
World Summit for Social Development**

**(a) The World Summit for Social Development: A Caribbean Perspective - presentation
by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

22. This paper had been prepared and was presented by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The paper sought to present an indication of the nature and extent of poverty and unemployment in the countries of the Caribbean, to indicate approaches which had been attempted in the Caribbean and elsewhere to dealing with these problems, and to point the way towards viable solutions. In regard to social integration the paper identified groups in the Caribbean which might be described as marginalized or otherwise disadvantaged and discussed issues relating to the goal of more integrated societies.

23. The paper concluded that while the promotion of viable economic growth was essential to poverty reduction and employment expansion, there was no automatic link between economic growth and poverty reduction, and that more deliberate attempts needed to be made to factor human development considerations into the process of planning and policy formulation at macro, micro and project levels. In regard to social integration it was found that there were issues which needed to be addressed so that potentially adverse consequences for economic and social development could be avoided. Special efforts were needed to address the problems of the very poor, the unemployed, women and young persons, with a view to integrating them into the mainstream of economic and social life.

24. It was found to be the responsibility of all mainstream and organized groups -- government, business, unions and other non-governmental groups -- to collaborate in the reduction of disintegration. More generally there was need for a greater Caribbean consensus on issues of social development, including the dimensions of and solutions to poverty and unemployment.

**(b) Employment promotion in the Caribbean: The Imperative for Action - presentation
by the ILO Caribbean Office**

25. The paper observed that the causes of unemployment in Caribbean countries were both external and internal in origin, and recommended that strategies toward a lasting solution had to address both sets of factors.

26. The paper proposed a framework for action. It recommended that immediate and direct programmes of employment creation were required which were targeted at socio-economic groups or geographic areas most affected by unemployment and its consequences and for whom immediate relief was needed. In light of this, it recognized the need for a dual-track approach to employment generation combining elements of both long term and immediate solutions. It recognized that there were no blanket solutions to the employment

problem in all Caribbean countries, and that each country should tailor-make policies to suit its particular economic and social realities.

27. It saw the need for specific policy approaches and interventions to address the need for job-growth. It stated that while recognizing the importance of international cooperation to deal with endemic problems, there was no substitute or excuse for lack of concerted action at the national level.

28. The paper concluded that the challenge of employment generation in the new economic environment was not one for governments only, but for all social actors. That fact notwithstanding, it advised that while there may be a reduced role for governments in direct employment creation, there was an expanded role for governments in providing the necessary legal, institutional and policy framework which was conducive to job-creating growth.

(c) Caribbean NGO Regional Preparatory Activities for the World Summit for Social Development - presentation of the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women

29. The NGO representative informed the meeting that the perspective of the NGOs was centred on the premise that the eradication of poverty, development of full employment or the achievement of social integration could not be secured without a fundamental shift in the direction of global political thinking and management. They believed that there was a basic contradiction between the aims of the Social Summit and current economic growth models. To overcome this discrepancy, it was proposed that a new development paradigm, centred on the primacy of people and which recognized that women had the strongest stake in human-centred development, was imperative. This new paradigm must be established if the current trend of social disintegration was to be reversed.

30. The presentation closed with the proposal of Six R's as priorities for the World Summit for Social Development which were developed by the Women's Caucus at the preparatory conference in New York in August 1994. These were: revaluing, representation, restructuring, resources, redistribution and rights. The NGO representative cautioned that the process of generating debate and consensus and preparation of proposals on Social Development for the Caribbean, especially in terms of overcoming poverty, must not end at the Copenhagen Summit. The NGOs would like to see the process build up to the World Conference on Women, in September 1995, in Beijing, and be followed up with analysis and improvement of policies and the design of methodologies to create lasting solutions to the social problems of the Caribbean subregion.

Discussion

31. It was suggested that there was a need to examine the issue of poverty in light of new factors since the ECLAC document had focused on the traditional factors which contributed

to poverty and not on the topics that were of a more recent nature. For example, it was felt that the drug situation in the Caribbean and the issue of crime should be included as factors contributing to poverty.

32. Participants noted that the strategies to alleviate poverty should include strategies for dealing with falling real wages and inequality in the distribution of income.

33. It was suggested that poverty in the Caribbean stemmed from massive overproduction in the OECD countries and this was being achieved through jobless growth. The subregion needed the resources to address the unemployment problem; however, these resources were being spent on payment of debt. Participants were of the view that the Caribbean subregion had to adopt a strategy that would convince the developed countries that it was in their best interest to view the developing world as consumers. It was also necessary to inform the developed countries about the magnitude of the debt problem in the subregion.

34. Another representative informed the meeting that poverty seemed more intense in the larger Caribbean countries and it seemed to be worsening. This he felt highlighted that other issues needed to be addressed at the Summit. These were: education, health care and social equity. Human needs should precede the need for externally imposed institutional structures.

35. One representative commented that countries should be wary of the fact that the present situation of widespread unemployment and underemployment and poverty in Caribbean countries were preconditions for social disintegration.

36. A representative observed that there was a noted absence of the trade union movement in the process of finding solutions to social problems. The representative further stated that there was a need to recognize a role for trade unions especially in the light of declining real wealth and income generation. Representatives saw a role for the trade unions in the treatment of workers. They suggested that a substantial investment had to be made in ensuring that people were trainable since there were jobs which few persons had the educational capacity to fill. The representative from the disabled community concurred and recommended that the disabled community be included in re-training exercises.

Agenda item 7 - Social Development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action

37. The meeting divided into three Working Groups on Poverty, Employment Expansion and Social Integration. These Working Groups formulated the Guidelines for Action, taking the preceding presentations and discussion into account.

**Agenda item 8 - Adoption of Social Development in the Caribbean:
Guidelines for Action**

38. The meeting adopted, *Social Development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action*, which is reproduced in the next section of this report. The Guidelines for Action were based on the reports of the three Working Groups, as amended and adopted by consensus at the meeting.

Agenda item 9 - Any other business

39. The meeting agreed that the Guidelines for Action should be given the widest possible circulation in the Caribbean and should also be sent to the Permanent Representatives of Caribbean Governments to the United Nations. It was also agreed that while the document had not yet received the official endorsement of Caribbean Governments, it would constitute a most useful basis for informing the positions and presentations of Caribbean spokespersons at the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee scheduled to take place in New York in January 1995, and at the Social Summit itself.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN: GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Introduction

40. The General Assembly of the United Nations decided in 1992 (through resolution 47/92), to convene a World Summit for Social Development in 1995, with objectives of: (a) the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups; (b) alleviation and reduction of poverty; (c) expansion of productive employment. The World Summit, it is hoped, will contribute to converting the goal of "social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom" into reality through appropriate action at national and regional levels and through international cooperation.

41. Policy-makers in many countries of the Caribbean have become increasingly conscious of the dynamics of the relationship between economic growth and social development and of the need for strategies and measures specially targeted towards the latter. The Social Summit provides a welcome opportunity not only for recognizing these efforts but also to seek to give them new impetus and direction.

42. Social development can only be achieved by giving effective recognition to the linkages between sustainable development and environment. It is imperative that we build upon other United Nations conferences, treaties and protocols inter alia: World Summit for Children, Earth Summit, World Conference on Human Rights, Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development and Global Conference on Women.

43. These Guidelines for Action have resulted from a process of consultation, and from Caribbean subregional meetings involving persons representing governments, business, trade unions, women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations. These meetings were convened by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in collaboration with ILO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

44. The Guidelines, in conjunction with the document on which they are based, "The World Summit for Social Development: A Caribbean Perspective" (and other relevant, national, regional and global documents on population, women, children and the disabled, including the Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Development), are intended to facilitate a coordinated Caribbean input into the Social Summit and its preparatory process at the global level, to inform statements by Caribbean spokesperson on the issues to be dealt with at the Summit, to inform national position documents on these issues, and also to inform decision-making and policy formulation at the national level.

Historical context

45. Throughout its history the Caribbean has been shaped by the external world, from its early absorption into international mercantilist economic relations to the current uncertainties and dislocations aggravated by rapidly changing technologies, increasing competition in a globalized market and new forms of absorption into a more liberalized international economy. These relationships have left their marks on the social and economic landscape as they continue to influence the distribution of productive assets and therefore influence human welfare, including the nature and extent of poverty in the Caribbean.

46. Cultural and social factors deriving from a past, which include the forced entry of Europeans into the Caribbean, bringing in its wake the marginalizing of indigenous populations where they survived; the enslaving of Africans in the Caribbean; and a sprinkling of other ethnic groups (Chinese, Javanese, Jews, Syrians, Lebanese, etc.). These historical factors, reinforced by socio-economic practices, have tended to cause cleavages along racial, ethnic, cultural, and class lines. These cleavages have sometimes proven to be inimical to development.

Economic context

47. Small size means that Caribbean countries are relatively undiversified and dependent on external trade. This dependence has made them vulnerable to recent global developments, necessitated rapid responses to fluctuating export earnings and government revenues, increased the international debt and greatly complicated the process of economic management. Rapid changes in global production patterns and international trade policies have required concomitant shifts in the composition of Caribbean exports, and necessitated the adoption of measures to increase productivity at all levels of society.

48. Change as rapid and far-reaching as that experienced in the last two decades, has increased economic and social instability and reduced the capacity of the State and some of the traditional institutions, to ameliorate the greatly increased stress placed on the most vulnerable people.

49. Accordingly, as government revenues fell, basic services such as health and education contracted, infrastructure deteriorated and social support measures to the poorest had to be curtailed. These factors explain the unmistakable increase in poverty over the last decade.

Recommended Actions

Rationale

50. The new emerging consensus regarding human-centred development argues that human dignity and social justice must be the goal of development theory and practice. This

new paradigm of development purports a holistic model of sustainable human development in which human security is redefined as value-based and not market oriented, and which ensures health and livelihoods for all. Further, it recognizes that women stand at the nexus between production and reproduction, between economic activity and the care of human beings and therefore between economic growth and human development.

Objective

51. To strive for an approach to development which gives primacy to human development, and promotes economic growth with equity.

Actions

52. 1. Policies for sustained economic growth should give primacy to the development of human capabilities and of human development, since exclusive reliance on economic growth is insufficient to bring about desired levels of human development.

2. Efforts should continue to drastically reduce the enormous debt burden of some countries in the region since these debts constitute serious obstacles to human centred development.

3. Recognition should be given to the need for programmes of human development including appropriate modifications to existing health, science, education and training programmes.

4. More focused attention should be given to the primary importance of social development, and should take into account the need for information on and monitoring of the social impact of national development policies and the incorporation of social development criteria into development planning, policy formulation and project evaluation.

5. Emphasis should be placed on the need for management development programmes to be intensified, especially in relation to the human resource, as a precondition for promoting improved productivity and competitiveness.

Rationale

53. The countries of the Caribbean region are asked to demonstrate, at the worst possible historical conjuncture, that economic growth and people development is feasible, and can be achieved more efficaciously the more democratic and participatory the system becomes. This means reform of Central Government's administrative system, and the performance of new roles in relation to social sector led-development and social reform. These new roles relate to policy management and evaluation; setting and overseeing the system of rules governing the society; securing equity; preventing discrimination and exploitation; and promoting social cohesion.

54. In this framework, good governance starts with the recognition that notwithstanding the sharp decline in social sector provisioning, there is a substantial critical mass of well-educated and creative Caribbean persons wishing to become fully participant in the initiation, formulation and implementation of public policy. Important steps towards community governance and participation are being taken through a process of devolution of administrative and political functions of central government to local government structures, community-based organisations and NGOs.

Objective

55. To seek to ensure that systems of governance are participatory, transparent and conducive to development.

Actions

56. 1. Engage in more widespread and organized consultations with relevant cross sections of the society, in the formulation of development plans and projects.

2. Foster a higher level of participation at local or community levels in programmes intended for the specific benefit of these communities.

3. Recognize the very valuable contributions which can be made by NGOs to the formulation and implementation of development projects and other activities.

4. Facilitate increased participation by business and labour in decision-making on issues of national importance.

5. Foster greater social consensus with a view to facilitating social cohesion and integration, and maximizing the contribution of all groups in society to national and social development.

6. Ensure appropriateness and adequacy of implementing governmental machinery with a view to ensuring the efficacious management and delivery of social services.

7. Restore political and parliamentary integrity.

REDUCTION AND ERADICATION OF POVERTY

A. Integrated strategies

Rationale

57. The paucity of data presents a major difficulty in being precise about the level of poverty in the subregion. It is estimated that in 1990 about 10 million people lived below the poverty line in the Caribbean. While the incidence varied, most countries had significant pockets of poverty and in some cases exceeded 70 percent of the population. In several cases the incidence of poverty increased significantly since 1990.

58. Higher proportions of the poor are found among the unemployed, the aged, the very young, indigenous people, the new poor, the youth and the rural population. Women profile highest in many of these categories.

59. Vigorous and sustained economic growth is an essential precondition for poverty reduction, but the process of growth should be such that it maintains and develops human capital, safeguards social services and narrows the gaps in income distribution.

60. The interrelations between demographic factors and poverty are acknowledged. Reduced fertility rates will help poor households achieve higher standards of consumption, and reduced population growth will help poorer countries to cope better with the pressures and demands of reducing the extent of poverty and unemployment.

Objective

61. To reduce and eradicate poverty in all countries of the subregion through concerted actions involving individuals, families, communities, civil society and governments.

Actions

62. Poverty eradication policies require a holistic approach. These should have long-term objectives but in the short term should include an appropriate incomes policy and social safety nets.

63. The question of information and data on the poor should be taken very seriously if governments have a sincere wish to eradicate poverty in focused and efficient ways. Surveys should be undertaken to improve poverty mapping and construction of poverty profiles. This should give special focus to the vulnerable groups identified above.

64. The Caribbean subregion should develop a common set of guidelines and standard methodology for identification of the poor and the estimation of the incidence of poverty.

65. Direct involvement and participation of the poor in the design, formulation and implementation of surveys and policies is necessary to increase knowledge and identification of the situation of the poorest. This should be encouraged by the formation, at the community level, of information gathering and dissemination taskforces comprising people who work in communities and especially with the poor. This is important to supplement data collected from baseline surveys. In this way administration costs can be kept down, even as information gaps are filled.

66. Effective national population policies and programmes which take into account the special needs of the poorer segments of society for services and information should be an essential component of poverty reduction strategies.

67. The National Programme of Action arising out of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Children should be seen as an effective social policy tool as well as a useful framework for action. The National Programme of Action for Children consists of goals, strategies, actions and monitoring and evaluation procedures, in the interests of children's survival, development and well-being.

68. An evaluation procedure should be introduced which examines all the structures, processes, strategies and programmes which seek to address the needs of the poor. Such a mechanism, by articulating performance indicators and techniques of measurement, will facilitate the development of a system of service delivery to the poor which is based on specific outcomes and results.

B. Access to productive opportunities and resources

Rationale

69. In the Caribbean the correlation between unemployment and poverty is high, particularly among the youth and women. A trend is also emerging of employed workers whose salaries are unable to meet their basic needs.

70. The capacity to provide all members of the labour force with productive employment depends highly on economic and policy predictability which stimulate high levels of domestic savings.

71. Over the past decade, however, workers in public and private sectors have been retrenched as a result of stabilization policies pursued by Caribbean governments, partly in response to global economic trends.

Objective

72. To ensure that Caribbean people living in poverty have access to sustainable opportunities and resources.

Actions

73. Greater financial resources should be allocated targeting unemployed youth, the disabled and indigenous groups for the training of entrants to the labour market. Specific efforts should also be made to place the newly-trained or to encourage them into viable self-employment. Policies are also needed for retraining the newly poor retrenched workers who lack skills required for re-employment.

74. Pro-active action should be taken to increase incomes for women through productive employment including viable self-employment for female heads of household and poor women in rural areas. In this connection, reproductive rights should be secured and supported by appropriate health services. Greater focus also needs to be placed on care services for children and the aged so as to assist women to better compete in the job market.

C. Access to basic services

Rationale

75. Productive activities of rural workers engaged in domestic agriculture is often hampered by bad roads, inadequate transportation, generally poor housing and infrastructure. The urban poor is expanding rapidly and is inadequately provided with basic services.

76. The poor spend a large part of their incomes on food and are therefore highly vulnerable to any income loss or setback.

77. Lack of access to basic services including health care, clean water and sanitation and quality education contribute to continuing poverty.

Objective

78. To ensure that people living in poverty have access to social services.

Actions

79. Central government should, in collaboration with local government, community organizations, the private sector and NGOs, ensure equitable access at all levels to health care, including comprehensive reproductive health care, and education and should ensure adequate physical infrastructure.

80. Appropriate macroeconomic and sectoral policies should be developed to stimulate rural development and emphasize national food production. Appropriate mechanisms should be designed to have adequate supplies of food available to the poor.

81. Governments, in collaboration with domestic, regional and international research institutions and organizations, should institutionalize studies to evaluate the efficacy of social intervention programmes and organizational arrangements among beneficiaries, to more precisely tailor support packages to the needs of the poor, and to monitor ongoing programmes.

D. Enhancing social protection

Rationale

82. Traditionally, communities and families in the Caribbean have assumed responsibility for economic and social protection of children and those who cannot support themselves, either temporarily or permanently, as a result of unemployment, old age, illness, natural disaster, displacement or other causes. Women have, by and large, carried the burden of fulfilling this need. Changing economic and social conditions, as well as a growing individualization of Caribbean society, as a result of the emerging conditions of modernization, have diminished such capability.

Objective

83. To ensure the protection of people vulnerable to poverty and deprivation and to support people who cannot support themselves.

Actions

84. Wherever feasible, governments should codify, in national legislation, undertakings at the international level pertaining to the rights of women, the elderly, indigenous people and the disabled. They should also develop adequate social protection policies and programmes for them.

85. Social security systems should be kept under constant review with a view to extending coverage and improving the benefits they provide. The actuarial integrity of social security systems should be respected and enshrined in legislation. As far as possible, non-contributory systems, financed out of public and private funds, should be put in place to provide support for those in greatest need.

EXPANSION OF PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT

Bases for action

86. There are certain pre-requisites for the expansion of productive employment.

87. The first is that the structural adjustment programmes being pursued by a number of Caribbean countries must address the need to restructure their economies and bring them onto a sounder footing of economic growth.

88. The second is that while growth is a necessary pre-condition for the generation of productive (quality) employment, it is not a sufficient condition. Also important is the acknowledgement (backed by appropriate action) that the social dimensions of economic policies do matter, not only because of the dislocation which occurs when such issues are ignored, but also because the desired economic growth and transformation cannot take place without the building-up of human resources through education, health and training.

89. The third is that the long-term sustainability of the efforts mentioned depends on securing the broadest possible consensus among all actors in society on the needed policies, on the existence of adequate social-safety nets, on a general perception that the burden of adjustment is being borne equitably and that there are prospects for early benefit.

90. The fourth is that the increased generation of quality jobs requires adjustments and changes to be made to the existing institutional, legislative and policy-framework as well as to the development of human resources. This is a long-term proposition.

91. In the meantime, immediate and direct programmes of employment creation are required which are targeted at socio-economic groups or geographic areas which are most affected by unemployment. These opportunities by their nature may not meet the requirements to be fully classified as quality employment and hence should be seen only as temporary or transitional solutions. There is therefore the need for a dual-track approach to employment generation combining elements of both long-term and immediate solutions.

92. The fifth is a recognition that the challenge of employment generation in the new economic environment is not one for governments only, but for all social actors. That fact notwithstanding, and while there may a reduced role for governments in direct employment creation, there is an expanded one in providing the necessary legal, institutional and policy framework which is conducive to job-creating growth.

93. The sixth is improved economic and social policy management facilitated by the availability of an adequate technical and administrative capacity in both the public and private sectors to manage the necessary reforms at the national level.

A. Rethinking policy: pursuing employment-intensive growth

Rationale

94. The persistence of high unemployment and the increasing incidence of underemployment have been amongst the most daunting and intractable socio-economic problems facing the Caribbean subregion for most of its modern history. Most recently,

these problems have been aggravated as a result of economic recession and the adoption subsequently of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes which have taken insufficient account of their social costs.

95. The causes of the unemployment problem in Caribbean countries have been both external and internal in origin, and strategies and policies toward a lasting solution have to address both sets of factors. The structure of most of these economies (including small size and openness) have always made them highly vulnerable to external shocks and the additional challenges implicit in the new global economic system threaten to marginalise them even further, and serve to aggravate the already severe problems of joblessness, poverty and social exclusion. The diversification of production in the medium-term, and structural transformation in the longer-term with a view to reducing their vulnerability and increasing their international competitiveness have to be part of a lasting solution.

96. However, economic growth while a necessary condition for the generation of productive (quality) employment is not a sufficient one. The phenomena of jobless-growth and growth generating jobs of inferior quality are part of the modern landscape in both developed and developing countries. Hence, there is need for specific policy approaches and interventions to address the objective of job-growth.

Objective

97. To set the creation of productive employment as a central objective and an explicit aim of macroeconomic policies and to seek to reinforce international cooperation to that effect.

Actions

98. Elevate the problems of unemployment and underemployment to the top of national and international policy agendas.

Actions at the national level

99. Ensure greater coordination of policy and programme activities which have an impact on employment between various departments and agencies concerned with development planning at the national and local levels, and establish appropriate and effective mechanisms in which employment and labour market policies are articulated and regularly reviewed.

100. Improve capacity to monitor, analyse and report on the magnitude and evolution of the employment problem in Caribbean countries and to examine its nature and composition, due regard being taken of the situations of vulnerable groups.

101. Develop well-defined industrial and other sectoral policies which not only seek to encourage investment and production in dynamic sectors in order to secure improved export

performance and thereby a greater share in world markets, but also seek to enhance domestic efficiency and markets and foster employment-generating growth.

102. Incorporate "employment criteria" in the evaluation and selection of investment projects.

103. Examine labour absorption within industries as well as indirectly through linkages with other industries, in order to strengthen those linkages which can maximize productive employment creation for a given investment programme.

104. Provide support for the development and transfer of technology.

105. Assess the impact of structural adjustment policies and programmes on specific groups and designing appropriate employment policies to help mitigate the negative impact.

106. Adopt targeted strategies to increase the productive employment of specific groups which take account of their distinctive characteristics and the factors which impede their access to such employment. The specific groups will vary from country to country, but will most likely include women, youth, household heads, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, and urban and rural poor.

107. Design rural development programmes which take into account the particular employment and social needs of rural populations. Emphasis to be given to agricultural and infra-structural development.

108. Explore the employment-creation impact of Export Processing Zones, taking into account the need to provide protection of workers' rights, within the framework of national labour standards.

109. Explore the possible employment and income effects and training implications of non-traditional areas of activities such as cultural, entertainment and sporting activities.

110. Explore the possible employment and income effects and training implications of environmental policies.

Actions at the international level

111. Ensure greater harmonisation of concepts and methodologies and standardization of definitions pertaining to the measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment in the subregion.

112. Develop harmonized Caribbean economic policies and taking active steps to advance the Caribbean integration process in recognition of the benefits to be derived from integration.

113. Request international financial institutions to take account of the impact of their programmes on employment and living standards.

114. While trade expansion should ultimately result in higher and sustained growth, it must not be based on the exploitation of labour. Consideration should be given to the inclusion in international trade agreements of a clause protecting fundamental workers' rights, i.e. prohibition of forced labour, child labour and discrimination and freedom of association and collective bargaining, as it would help to protect workers from exploitation while providing incentives to direct international competition towards raising productivity and improving the skills of the work-force. Any mechanism to monitor compliance with such a clause should be independent, impartial and objective.

B. Creating employment through enterprise

Rationale

115. Small and micro-enterprises have the potential to comprise a significant component of the response to the employment challenge in the Caribbean. Access to credit, training and technical assistance have been experienced as the prime constraints on the growth of small business activity. This is also true for activities developed by social actors in the informal economy.

116. Many Caribbean women, because of various factors which cause them to become heads of households, are easily motivated towards small enterprise. It is a way of drawing women into economic production activity and is also a source of ownership and management opportunity for women.

Objective

117. To provide a supportive policy environment and appropriate institutional framework for the development and growth of enterprises, in particular small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Actions

118. Stimulate the development and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises in a wide range of activities so as to maximize the contribution of these enterprises to employment generation.

119. Provide the necessary assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises which can improve their access to finance, new technologies and training in such areas as marketing techniques, accounting and quality control.

120. Design a transparent, coherent and comprehensive strategy towards the informal sector which aims at improving the productivity of informal sector activities and their capacity to provide employment and incomes and provide basic social protection to informal sector producers and workers.

121. Conduct basic research studies on the informal sector in order to facilitate an understanding of the nature, composition and the functioning of this sector and inform the development of policies in support of this sector.

122. Research should also be undertaken to identify specific branches of economic activity which have potential for growth with respect to demand potential and in which informal producers can compete successfully with the modern sector or which have a complementary relationship with the formal sector.

C. Promoting employment through active labour market policies,
including education and training

Rationale

123. Active labour market policies are needed to improve the functioning of the labour market and ensure that adequate opportunities are provided for skill development at all levels to meet the demands of increasing productivity.

124. The relationship between productivity and wages and salaries needs to be closely checked and balanced. The introduction and or strengthening of mechanisms which link wages and salaries to performance, i.e. establish links between real wages and increases in productivity should be considered to ensure that workers benefit from economic expansion. Such a policy could offer incentives to increase productivity, improve income distribution, and reduce inflationary pressures. Consideration should be given to the adoption of social compacts which are arrived at freely by the social partners.

Objective

125. To improve the efficient operation of labour markets, with a view to facilitating labour mobility, enhancing the overall quality of employment and enabling workers to move from low productivity to higher productivity jobs.

Actions

126. Review existing labour regulations with the full participation of employers and workers organisations with a view to removing the constraints on the creation of jobs and the mobility of workers while ensuring adequate social protection.

127. Strengthen job-search, vocational guidance and placement mechanisms whether through public or private employment agencies. Specific attention should be paid to the needs of those most affected by frictional as well as structural unemployment, and in particular to the needs of women and youth.

128. Establish appropriate modalities to facilitate the re-deployment of retrenched workers into the job-market. Elements to include counselling (job and financial), retraining and financial assistance. This effort should be supported by relevant information on existing and emerging opportunities in the job-market.

129. Design national policies towards the development and promotion of child-care, family and other support services and facilities, such as care for the elderly, and reproductive rights and choices which could facilitate the increased participation in the labour market of those men and women whose participation is now constrained by the absence of such facilities.

130. Promote initiatives to enhance productivity. At the macro-level, this may include more flexible and less restrictive industrial policies and strategies, varied education and manpower planning in both the public and private sectors, and more cooperative industrial relations climate. At the micro level, this may include appropriate training to improve strategic planning and priority setting, and improved research and development and human resource development approaches, and more meaningful workers' participation.

131. Establish as feasible, national productivity centres to serve as focal points and catalysts for national productivity drives.

132. Support efforts aimed at introducing and strengthening mechanisms which link wages to performance, i.e. establish links between real wages and increases in productivity to ensure that workers benefit from economic expansion. Such a policy could offer incentives to increase productivity, improve income distribution, and reduce inflationary pressures.

133. Review or establish policies to ensure that minimum levels of remuneration are established which serve as a floor for wage structure and serve as a net for social protection.

134. Reform education systems with a special emphasis on primary education with a view to imparting the broad knowledge base which is required to facilitate adjustment to changing production structures in the economy and eliminating the causes and circumstances which result in school-dropouts at primary and secondary levels.

135. Adapt training policy and vocational training institutions in such a way that they are capable of producing graduates with the skills and attitudes required by the current labour market and can facilitate the process of life-long training and retraining. Attention should be paid to methods which promote flexibility and participation in decision-making by employers.

136. Establish appropriate mechanisms involving employer and worker organizations for the coordination of training activities taking account of the needs for standards-setting and certification in the delivery of training.

137. Promote the development of entrepreneurs and managers utilising approaches linking training to practical work experience since the competitive edge of the economy will be based on skills, entrepreneurship and research.

138. Develop special training and upgrading programmes targeted towards the unemployed, women, displaced or retrenched workers and new-comers to the job market.

D. Community-based employment programmes

Rationale

139. The development of communities significantly enhances the potential for economic growth based on the initiatives of the people. Opportunities for sustainable development at the community level are often overlooked although they can contribute not only to employment generation but to much needed infrastructural development and upgrading.

Objective

140. To take advantage of opportunities at the community level which could generate employment and incomes and contribute to poverty reduction.

Action

141. Strengthen community-based development planning with special emphasis on employment generation. Specific consideration should be given to the following:

1. Development of programmes for the provision and upgrading of basic services in low income areas, e.g. drinking water, development of low-cost sanitation methods, roads, proper sewerage, drainage, waste management, street lighting, etc., utilising participatory strategies. Examples could be integrated, community-based infra-structural projects combining construction with employment-generation, in order to attend to deteriorated and non-functioning infrastructure facilities which pose a constraint on economic development and a serious environmental threat to healthy and safe living and working conditions. Such projects could be supported by a partnership of external agencies including United Nations agencies as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies.

2. Provision of physical industrial facilities to encourage growth of new enterprises and self-employment opportunities. Support for the development of small-scale enterprises in construction, recycling and the production of building materials through the

provision of research, credit and training to be involved in the urban development programmes in partnership with large firms and local communities.

3. Encouragement of new housing estates and sites and services utilising local resources and labour-intensive methods on a self-financing basis and in partnership with local authorities.

4. Provision of skill-training at the community level.

5. Improvement in data collection systems on the local level, especially appropriate economic and demographic data for monitoring growth in the communities and planning for the provision of transport, housing and social services.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

A. Basic human well-being and respect for diversity

Rationale

142. Social Integration is built on a feeling of inter-connectedness on the part of individuals and groups in society. It addresses the extent to which categories or groups of people are incorporated as equals into society. In the Caribbean the very poor and the unemployed, women, young persons, and people who live in rural areas are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable. Other groups are also relatively marginalized or otherwise disadvantaged to a greater or lesser extent -- among these are the indigenous, disabled and displaced, and persons who live in rural areas, which groups may be excluded from the mainstream. These groups may be deprived of the opportunities and responsibilities which would derive from fuller participation in society.

143. All citizens should have equal opportunity to contribute to social and economic development and to benefit from adequate conditions of life. While the Caribbean has lived with differences among groups throughout its history, some groups are marginalized and disadvantaged in terms of such opportunities. Furthermore, economic decline and its related measures have seriously affected the life conditions of certain groups.

Objectives

144. To promote improvement in the conditions of life of all Caribbean peoples, and ensure the participation of all, and particularly the marginalized and disadvantaged groups, in the development process. To improve the quality of social services and increase the quantity where necessary, to satisfy relevant needs on the basis of equality.

145. To celebrate the rich diversity of the Caribbean, capitalizing on its historical reality.

Actions

146. All the social actors - government, business, unions and other non-governmental organizations should collaborate to promote social integration.

147. Governments of the subregion should:

- Establish national consultative mechanisms and adopt appropriate legislative measures to promote social integration.
- Commission evaluation studies on current social services and strengthen institutions designated to provide such services to the population.
- Recognize and support the contribution of NGOs in promoting social integration.
- Recognize and support efficient and affordable transportation systems for promoting the integration of Caribbean peoples.
- Together with regional and subregional organizations, promote activities that stimulate respect and recognition of Caribbean diversity and encourage the participation of all social actors in the formulation and implementation of policy.

148. National NGOs, including grassroots organizations, and the private sector should support the fullest participation of citizens in the political process. They should periodically review adherence to existing legislation pertaining to social integration. They should establish public education programmes designed to increase public awareness of their roles, responsibilities and privileges.

149. Organize, with broad consultation from all groups a "Caribbean Summit on Youth" which would seek to better understand the concerns of youth and involvement in the development process.

150. Include youth in all fora and planning initiatives relative to social and sustainable development.

B. Ending discrimination and promoting equality

Rationale

151. Discrimination, whether explicit or implicit, makes social integration difficult. In terms of the socio-economic dimension, women and young persons suffer discrimination and inequality of opportunity. While some advancement has been achieved over the past decade, women still do not have equal opportunities especially in regard to achieving elevated

positions in economic and social life. Several amendments in discriminatory legislation have not been implemented. Young people, especially those in deprived areas, have unequal access to adequate quality education and appropriate health services and consequently to employment and employability.

152. Where age, race, ethnicity, class, culture and gender are major determinants of such discrimination, the process of social integration is seriously endangered. While discrimination on these terms is not institutionalized in the Caribbean, it cannot be maintained that discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity and culture does not exist. In most instances discrimination is implicit and latent rather than explicit and manifest. It has been internalized within some social groups over the years. Its impact on the process of social integration is not negligible. Ending discrimination in all its implicit and latent forms will promote social integration. Promoting the continued decolonization of the remaining Caribbean non-self governing territories will also promote social integration.

Objectives

153. To eliminate all forms discrimination and promote appreciation and respect for human dignity.

154. To strive for social equity and participation of all disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Caribbean society.

Actions

155. 1. Establish mechanisms for monitoring and measuring the extent of discrimination with regard to age, race, ethnicity, class, culture and gender.

2. Make greater efforts to promulgate, implement and enforce national laws and international conventions to which they are party, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Countries are urged to sign, ratify and implement all existing agreements and where necessary ensure that all non-independent countries are included as parties to these agreements.

3. Enact relevant laws, regulations and other appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

4. Promote programmes for the full integration of vulnerable groups such as youth, women, (especially adolescent mothers), the very poor, the disabled, indigenous peoples, and migrants in the society.

5. Encourage community groups, NGOs and the media, to become active in ensuring equality and political participation.

6. Recognize and encourage the promotion of sports activities and cultural festivals as a means of promoting equality and social cohesion.

7. Strengthen political participation, encourage consensus-building and promote transparency and accountability of political groupings represented in local and national government.

8. Encourage the acceleration of the decolonization process consistent with accepted international principles.

C. Special measures to meet special social needs

Rationale

156. The integration of marginalized and disadvantaged groups including the very poor, the unemployed, women, young persons, indigenous peoples and other marginalized and disadvantaged groups, may require the provision of special programmes to meet special needs. Increasing gaps in levels of income are accompanied by more and more people being pushed into situations of poverty. Unemployment continues to be a problem for many. Several groups are excluded from participation in the process of development.

Objective

157. To ensure the integration into the development process of marginalized groups including: extreme poor, women and especially adolescent mothers, youth, the elderly, the unemployed, disabled and indigenous peoples.

Actions

158. Focus on integration of the marginalized and disadvantaged as a boon to human development. Social planners should take a proactive position on the development of social integrative policies. In this regard, governments, NGOs, the private sector and civil society have important roles to play.

159. Make serious efforts to include the marginalized and disadvantaged as special target groups in programmes of formal and informal education and training, as an integrative force. Training, (including on-the-job training), should be community-based in order to improve employment opportunities.

160. Governments, in collaboration with NGOs, should meet the special needs of adolescents, especially teenage mothers in re-entering the school system as well as gaining

employment, and devise strategies and programmes to reduce the adverse consequences of adolescent fertility, including removal of societal barriers.

161. Priority should be given to the production and dissemination of social statistical data, particularly on the marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

162. Support should be provided to the Caribbean family in its various forms.

163. Adequate proportions of national resources must be allocated to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

164. Measures should be taken to promote, through family reunion, the normalization of family life of legal migrants, particularly in non-independent Caribbean countries.

165. Priority attention should be given to measures promoting self determination and sovereignty for all Caribbean peoples.

D. Violence, crime and drug abuse

Rationale

166. The subregion is affected by the rising incidence of crime, drug abuse and drug trafficking, which have disintegrative effects. There is therefore a critical need to address the causes and effects of violence, crime and drug abuse.

Objective

167. To reduce the incidence of crime, domestic violence, drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Action

168. Measures to attack and prevent crime, domestic violence, drug abuse and drug trafficking should be strengthened.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Rationale

169. The countries of the subregion would wish to ensure that the objectives and actions contained in the Guidelines for Action are reflected in decision-making and policy formulation, programme development and decision making at national levels.

Objective

170. To give effect to the actions specified in the Guidelines for Action and in the Programme for Action and Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development.

Actions

171. The main thrust of the Guidelines for Action is the development of national development strategies which take into account the objectives and the Programme of Action of the Summit. Special focus should be on:

1. Promoting acceptance of the Guidelines and of the Programme of Action of the Summit at the national level and facilitating participation in its implementation by all relevant sectors of the society.
2. Making efforts to reflect desired levels of social development consciousness including, where appropriate, the application of the relevant criteria in planning, policy formulation and project implementation at national and community levels.
3. Facilitating data collection and research with a view to obtaining greater insight into causes and characteristics of poverty and unemployment in order to facilitate identification of policies and programmes for their eradication.
4. Ensuring, in the formulation of macroeconomic policy and in decisions taken within the framework of international economic cooperation, that consequences for social development are taken into account and compensatory measures are put in place.
5. Conducting regular monitoring and review of the implementation of the Guidelines for Action and the Programme for Action of the World Summit for Social Development with a view to ensuring compliance with their provisions.

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