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FOCUS

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ABOUT ECLAC/CDCC

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organization's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the Secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialisation include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development; while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, climate change, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC subregional headquarters of the Caribbean also functions as the Secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain.

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Director's Desk

TRANSITIONING FROM THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Convened in 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit provided world leaders an opportunity to reflect on human development over the millennia, and to craft proposals for addressing the common challenge of globalization in a manner that would benefit all peoples. Their reflection revealed that the gains of human development efforts up to that time were largely skewed towards more affluent countries, and ultimately created an inequitable situation where the benefits and costs of globalization were not evenly shared – a situation that left developing countries and those in economic transition in a disadvantaged position.

In response to this situation, world leaders agreed to the Millennium Declaration, with a view towards promoting equity among nations through sustained efforts that would ensure a fully inclusive future for all humanity. The mechanism through which these ideals were executed was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which would be implemented until 2015.¹ All nations were charged with the responsibility of implementing the MDGs, and of measuring progress in their achievement, both at the national and regional levels.

Despite the Caribbean's continued challenge with the availability and accessibility of relevant data, considerable progress has been made in meeting some of the MDGs goals. Using undernourishment as an indicator of poverty, Cuba and Guyana met MDG 1 targets in the 1990s,² while Haiti and Jamaica have made considerable progress, with Suriname and Trinidad



Photo courtesy ECLAC

Ms Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

and Tobago registering improvements. According to the 2013 MDGs report,³ the Caribbean fully achieved the drinking water target under MDG 7 ahead of the 2015 deadline.

The subregion was also reported as being on track in meeting the target on halving the proportion of society suffering from hunger and halting the spread of and reversing the incidence of tuberculosis. The report also noted that the Caribbean had gained ground in increasing access to primary education.

Other reachable targets were identified as being the halving of the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, and the reduction of the under-five child mortality rate between 1990 and 2011 by more than 50 percent. Noteworthy efforts for the Caribbean were its stellar reduction in the number of newly infected people with HIV, down by 43 per cent between 2001 and 2011.



¹ MDG Image: http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Millennium_Development_Goals

² Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2004, Rome, 2004.

³ United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals 2013

“The millennium Development Goals have shown that we can make profound differences in people’s lives. The Journey we started in the year 2000 has seen us build a solid foundation for further progress.”

UN Secretary – General Ban Ki-moon.



Photo courtesy ECLAC

With respect to maternal mortality, a few countries recorded a reduction in deaths per 100,000 live births from 1990 – 2010, namely Barbados, which decreased from 120 to 51; Saint Lucia, from 64 to 35; and Belize from 71 to 53. However, despite this progress and based on the latest trends, many low and middle-income countries, including countries in the Caribbean, will not achieve this goal.⁴

Undoubtedly, the subregion must continue to move forward by reviewing the shortfalls of the MDGs while still celebrating its successes. As the 2015 deadline for achievement of the MDGs comes to an end, it is time to encourage careful design of the post-2015 development agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, appointed a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons and charged them with the responsibility of developing a set of SDGs that would be discussed by countries. The High-Level Panel declared that the SDGs should reflect a universal agenda and focus on five transformational shifts: (i) leave no one behind; (ii) put sustainable development at the core; (iii) transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; (iv) build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and (v) forge a new global partnership.

Armed with the lessons learnt from the MDG experience and ideals of the Millennium Declaration, while considering the five transformational shifts, the panel encouraged the global

community to strengthen their stride towards securing: “..... a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.....”, while remaining: “.....committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.”⁵

After the World Summits in 2005 and 2010, leaders realised that the work of the MDGs had to continue beyond 2015, and that in many instances this work had just begun. It is anticipated that the SDGs will be the vehicle for advancing this work to the benefit of all mankind.

Yours in Focus,
Diane

⁴ <http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com>

⁵ Resolution 55/2 United Nations Millennium Development Goals

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDA

The outcome document of the 2010 MDG Summit requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the stimulus in initiating preparations for the post-2015 global development agenda. In support of this, the 2012 outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, The Future We Want, initiated an inclusive process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that would supersede the Millennium Development Goals. There was international agreement that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals should ultimately converge in one global development agenda having sustainable development at its core. The United Nations facilitates this global conversation and "has the responsibility of supporting Member States by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking and field experience."¹

The process of arriving at this new framework was spearheaded by member states with broad participation from civil society organizations, the private sector and businesses, academia and scientists.

RIO+20

In the Rio+20 outcome document,² member States agreed that SDGs must be: action-oriented; concise; easy to communicate; limited in number; aspirational; global in nature; and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities.

An inter-governmental Open Working Group (OWG) was established to ensure that the formulation of the SDGs would be reached by consensus via the United Nations General

Assembly, through a transparent intergovernmental process. At the 68th session of the General Assembly, the Working Group submitted a report that tabled a proposal for SDGs for consideration. The outcome document further specified that the SDGs should be developed through a coordinated and coherent process in synchrony with those considering the post-2015 development agenda, and that initial input to the work of the OWG would be provided by the Secretary-General in consultation with national governments.

THE ROADMAP TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The development of the SDGs occurred through the following steps:

1. *Establishment of a UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda*

Established by the Secretary-General in January 2012, the UN

System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda brought together more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations. It is jointly chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and supports the process by providing analytical thinking and technical inputs.

In June 2012, the Task Team published its first report entitled: "Realizing the Future We Want for All", which outlined the vision of the United Nations system on the global post-2015 development agenda. The Task Team was also involved in two working groups that were subsets of the established OWG, in an analytical capacity. The first working group focused on the global partnership for development, while the emphasis of the second was on monitoring progress through the design of indicators that would promote further insight into these issues.

¹ http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/process.shtml

² <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>



The UN System Task Team also oversees the OWG that was supported by an inter-agency technical support team. This team which is co-chaired by DESA and UNDP, comprises over 40 UN entities and is mandated to provide technical and analytical support, background materials and expert panellists to the work of the OWG.

2. High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

In July 2012, the UN Secretary-General launched the **High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**. Co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Panel assembled representatives from civil society, the private sector,

academia and local and national governments in order to debate and discuss formulation of the SDGs. In May 2013, the Panel published its report,¹ which included its vision and recommendations on a global development agenda beyond 2015.

3. Open Working Group

Mandated by the Rio+20 Outcome document ([A/67/L.48/rev.1](#)), a 30-member **OWG of the General Assembly** was established on 22 January 2013, and tasked with preparing a proposal on SDGs for consideration by the Assembly at its 68th session. The member states which comprise the OWG opted to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation in the group that was new to limited membership

bodies of the General Assembly. This means that each seat in the Group was shared by 1-4 member states and the country teams themselves decided on their representation at the OWG meetings. This method of representation required communication and sharing of information among country teams to ensure continuity in the discussions.

4. National, global and thematic consultations

In order to facilitate an inclusive global conversation, and to inform the report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel, the United Nations Development Group initiated national consultations in 88 countries. These consultations

(continued on page 15)



¹ http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf

OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As part of the Rio+20 outcomes, member states agreed to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The task of preparing a proposal on the SDGs was assigned to a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly established on a constituency-based system of representation in which most seats were shared by several countries. The OWG included representatives from the five United Nations Regional Groups, chosen to facilitate a balanced geographical representation as well as equity amongst the regions.

The Group's work was organized in two main phases. During the first phase, eight meetings were held between March 2013 and February 2014. The meetings offered member States and other stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the main themes, including those identified in the Rio+20 outcome document's Framework for Action, and to analyze how they might be reflected in a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the second phase, from February through September 2014, the Group prepared a report for the 68th session of the General Assembly (GA) containing a proposal for SDGs.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Throughout the sessions of the OWG, financing was a key concern for many countries. Speakers highlighted the need to build on Means of Implementation (MOI) outlined in existing agreements, including the Monterrey Consensus. There were calls for debt relief and special support to poor highly indebted countries; emphasizing the need for

increased technology transfer and South-South cooperation. Several speakers also mentioned that developing countries should receive adequate and effective international assistance, including through the facilitation of their transition to green economies. In addition, the role of middle-income countries was presented as being vital to reducing inequalities and building new partnerships beyond traditional donor-recipient relationships.

MAJOR GROUPS

During the preparation of the SDGs, Major Groups¹ and other stakeholders were able to contribute to the debate on key areas by participating in the OWG meetings, including the morning hearings with the co-chairs of the OWG. Representatives from each of the nine Major Groups were seated as official observers to the OWG sessions, and were given the floor to speak after political groups and governments interceded.

Throughout the OWG process, governments committed to working closely with Major Groups and other

stakeholders, and to encouraging their active participation in processes that contributed to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels. Governments also agreed to work towards improved access to information and communications technologies, especially broadband networks and services, in order to bridge the digital divide through greater international cooperation. By virtue of these efforts, Major Groups were able to use crowd sourcing to allow organizations that were unable to attend the OWG meetings to contribute their expertise and knowledge to the development of the SDGs.

In their capacity as co-chairs of the OWG, the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Kenya to the United Nations, requested that open and inclusive meetings be held with Major Groups and other Stakeholders on the morning before each OWG session. The meetings were organized around the themes which were to be discussed by the OWG on that day.

¹ This comprises civil society organisations that, based on Agenda 21 are separated into nine major groups, namely Women, Children, Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Science and Technology, Business and Industry.

With a view to fostering synergies and partnerships, Major Groups produced nine position papers that contributed to the discussions. The visions and priorities outlined in these papers by each Major Group can be summarized as follows.

Business and Industry:

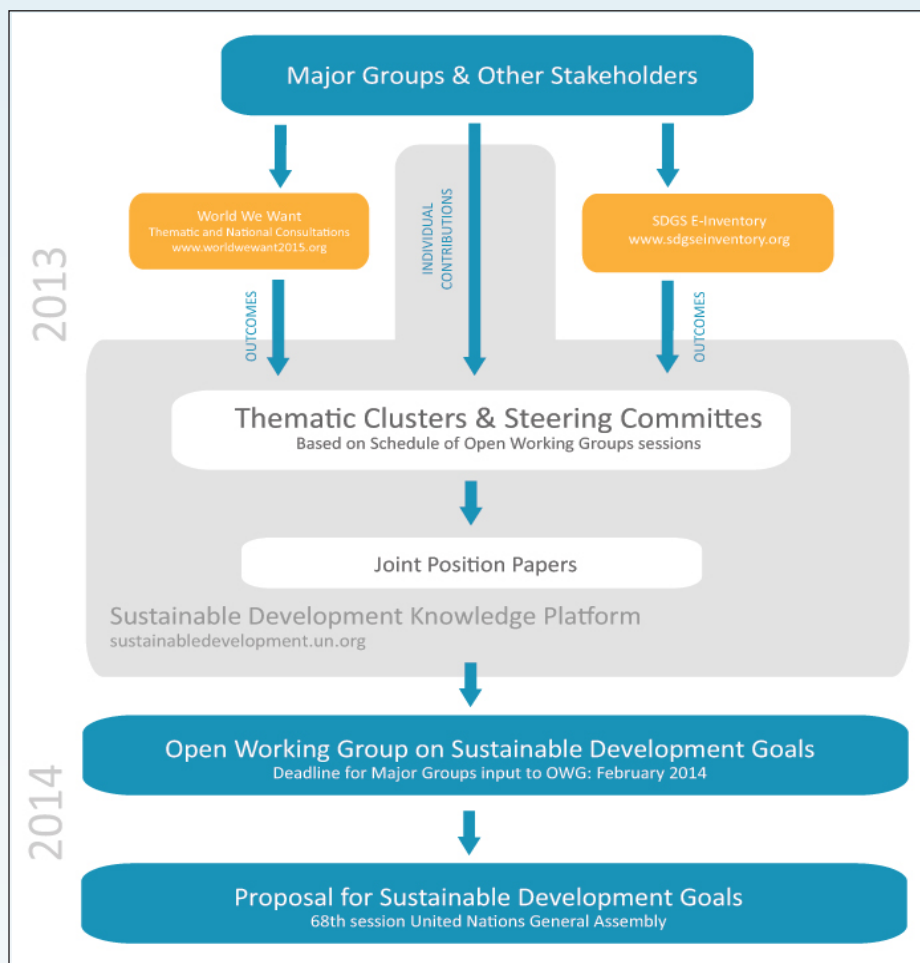
Business has a central role to play in accelerating progress towards sustainable development as an engine of economic growth and employment, as a contributor to government revenues, and as a driver of innovation, capacity building and technology development.

Children and Youth:

The Major Group of Children and Youth welcomed the recommendations of the High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and underscored that young people are key partners in the development and implementation of the SDGs.

Farmers:

The Farmers Major Group advocated for a more holistic and sustainable path for the world’s food and agriculture production system. In doing so, the Group called for a shift towards more traditional systems that utilize, respect and promote traditional knowledge of small rural producers, including farmers, fisher folk, indigenous people, women and pastoralists.



Indigenous Peoples:

The Group called for a Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs, and noted that cultural diversity, including diverse knowledge systems, and biological diversity underpin the adaptive capacities and resilience of nature and societies.

Local Authorities:

The Local Authorities Major Group considered the adoption of a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization (Urban SDG) that would provide holistic, integrated, territorial-based, inclusive, visionary and transformative solutions to address and meet the complex social, economic, environmental,

cultural and institutional challenges of the “Urban World” of the 21st century.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

NGOs underscored that the post-2015 sustainable development framework should include a focus on marginalized communities and groups to help ensure their access to justice and progressive good governance. In addition, the framework should also emphasize the equitable access to a fair share of natural resources, while at the same time building climate resilient livelihoods through low carbon development pathways.

□ **Scientific and Technological:**

The Group considered the importance of undertaking new solution-oriented research directed at better understanding the pressures on the global commons and the potential impacts for societies; as well as the cross-scale interactions between food, water, biodiversity, energy and ways to foster better stewardship and more equitable access to resources; and the systemic changes needed to advance human development within the ecological limits of the planet.

□ **Women:** The SDGs proposed by the Group should form part of a broader agenda of deep structural and transformational changes that is firmly rooted in human rights and obligations, and in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Social, economic and ecological justice, including women's and girls' human rights and gender equality, must be firmly embedded.

□ **Workers and Trade Unions:**

This Group considered that a post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda will only be effective if it is relevant for working people and underpinned by the human rights based approach. Decent work for all and social protection for all are critical components in this regard, and they must be

considered by governments as fundamental steps in building dignity for the world's citizens.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Although each stakeholder group may have its own set of priorities, there would appear to be overarching convergence on key goals that should be attained in order to accomplish sustainable development. Poverty eradication remains the overarching objective of the international community, and needs to be central to a proposal on SDGs. There is widespread recognition that poverty eradication can only be made irreversible if the SDGs advance sustainable development in a holistic manner.



The SDGs are accompanied by targets, and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. They build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.

In August 2014, after 18 months of negotiation, the Open Working Group approved the seventeen goals that will be submitted to the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will be held in September 2014. During the period of sessions, the goals accompanied by 169 targets, will be discussed and the final outcome will guide the sustainable development efforts after 2015. ●

CARIBBEAN PRIORITIES IN FORMULATING SDGs

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the basis for development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These new goals have been crafted to take into account both the development progress achieved over the past two decades, as well as newly emerging challenges. As noted by the Independent Research Forum¹, the salient issues going forward are likely to be water availability, agriculture and food security, energy security and urbanization.

In addition to these, Caribbean SIDS are also likely to continue to be challenged by high public debt, fiscal and balance of payment deficits, as well as the implications of their middle income status. So what are the key development priorities for the Caribbean as it prepares to move forward past 2015? The answer to this question is informed by an understanding of the special circumstances of the Caribbean development experience as well as the development targets of the SDGs.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT – CURRENT CHALLENGES

The most pressing sustainable development challenges currently confronting the Caribbean subregion derive partly from the small open nature of local economies, as well as from exposure to natural hazards. Further, the limited natural and human resource base has constrained economic growth, and along with recently increased frequency of natural

disasters, has resulted in the macro-economic circumstances of enduring high public debt, and large current account and fiscal deficits. With respect to growth, for example, the Caribbean as a whole achieved only 1.8 per cent between 1991 and 2012, and has been on a downward growth trajectory since the early 1970s, when the region averaged growth rates of roughly 3.0 per cent. This slow growth has not been sufficient to offset global economic and natural disaster shocks, so that in 2012 the

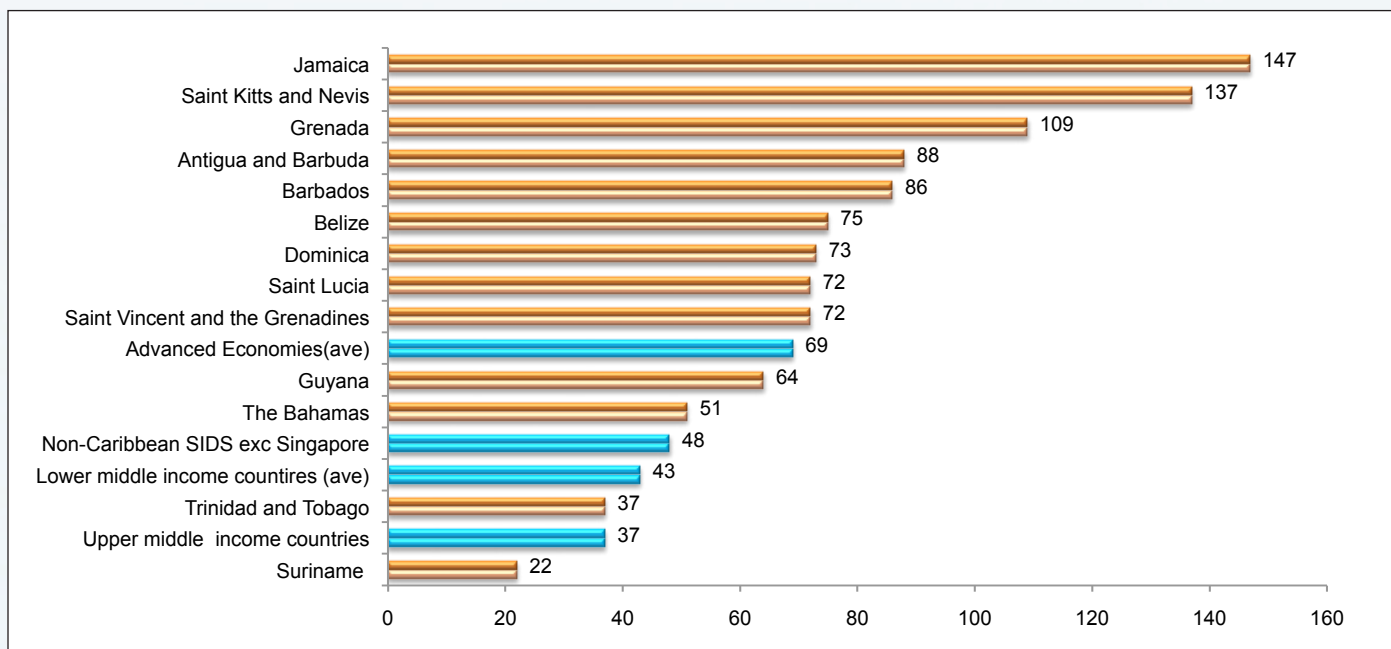


Figure 1: Debt-GDP ratio (%) of the Caribbean as compared with other middle income countries, 2012

Source: ECLAC, 2014

¹ Independent Research Forum – IRF 2015, Policy Paper “Post-2015: Framing a New Approach to Sustainable Development”, March 2013.



Raúl García-Buchaca, Director of the ECLAC Division of Programme Planning and Operations, Santiago Chile

region had a higher debt to GDP ratio relative to other SIDS, ranging between 22 per cent for Suriname and 147 per cent for Jamaica (figure 1).

Over the past decade, the Caribbean has also experienced increased impacts of natural events such as hurricanes, droughts and earthquakes, the total damage of which is assessed at US \$19.9 billion between 2000 and 2012. Another major challenge which confronts Caribbean SIDS is the lack of secure energy supplies, as all states except Trinidad and Tobago are net importers of energy. Moreover, all countries are primarily fossil energy consumers, with very limited development of renewable energy resources. With the emergence of climate change as another development challenge, the region's energy insecurity has been further exposed, as alternative energy options have become critical considerations in both climate change mitigation and adaptation policy framework.

These economic issues have also manifested themselves

in a number of social challenges in the Caribbean, in areas including poverty, health (such as HIV and AIDS), the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and crime and violence. With respect to poverty, while it

has on average declined in the region since the mid-1990s, the numbers remain significant. Poverty levels measured in terms of the percentage of population living below the national poverty line fell from 18.7 per cent to 9.9 per cent for Jamaica, and from 31.2 per cent to 28.8 per cent for Saint Lucia. Likewise, figures for Trinidad and Tobago show an improvement from 21.2 per cent to 16 per cent during the period up to 2009. Most of these improvements were achieved between the 1990s and the mid 2000s. However, the region has seen significant reversals since the onset of the global crisis with some countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada, actually recording increases in poverty levels during the period.

With regard to health issues, the Caribbean has had the second highest prevalence of HIV in the world during the decade of 2000, with rates ranging from 1.2 per cent for Barbados to 2.5 per cent for Guyana in 2007. Although current evidence suggests that the rate of new infections has stabilized, the region has a significant number

of persons living with HIV and AIDS, which has implications for long term treatment costs and management of new infections over the medium to long term. Additionally, the pattern of infection indicates its highest level among young persons aged 15 – 25, indicating significant human resource and labour market implications for the region over the long term. The Caribbean is also challenged by a high and growing incidence of non-communicable diseases, which also portend important sustainable development concerns in the future.

With regard to security, over the past decade the Caribbean has seen a significant increase in crime and violence, mostly due to the spread of the international drug trade through the region. This has emerged as a major threat to citizen security and the weakening of institutions of governance in the subregion.

SDGs – CARIBBEAN PRIORITIES

Given the current reality in the subregion, what are the likely sustainable development priorities for the Caribbean post-2015? While the Caribbean would have a clear interest in all 17 of the proposed SDGs, the following 15 are likely to be priorities for the region's development in the post-2015 era. ●

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS

Although some progress has been made in achieving the MDGs, Goal 8 which focuses on forging a global partnership for development has attained mixed success. It is therefore important to focus on sustainable development goal 17, which seeks to build on the achievements of millennium development goal 8 and to strengthen efforts to build partnerships.

The need for a strong global partnership for development was recognized given the different starting points of many countries striving to improve their economic, social and environmental conditions. Among the key partnership achievements anticipated were the enhancement of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from developed to developing countries; the facilitation and expansion of trade; support in reducing the debt burden of developing countries; and support in strengthening information and communications technologies (ICTs). While progress has been significant over the past two to three years, the strengthening of the global framework for development has lagged behind the other MDGs for much of the decade of the 2000s. The impact of this slow pace has been particularly severe on SIDS, especially in light of the emergence of climate change and natural disasters as specific development challenges.

Development thinkers and agencies however, continued to recognize the need for a strong global partnership to protect the gains made and to further accelerate progress, particularly for the world's least developed and most vulnerable peoples. On that basis, the strengthening of global partnerships was focused upon both during the

global earth summit review (Rio+20, 2012) and in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Samoa, 2014).

The importance of this issue has been reflected in Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and forms a key element of development focus in the proposed Post-2015 development agenda. However, unlike the partnership agenda of the MDGs, sustainable development goal 17 aims to broaden the participation of the global community in advancing the post-2015 partnership. In particular, the new partnership strategy gives greater emphasis to domestic resource mobilization, with

increased international support. It also recognizes new areas of global partnership collaboration such as technology and capacity-building. Significantly, sustainable development goal 17 also identifies a number of systematic or institutional issues which are deemed to be critical in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to strengthen implementation, and to better forge meaningful global partnerships. These include improving policy and institutional coherence; improving multi-stakeholder partnerships; and enhanced data, monitoring and accountability. Ultimately, it is expected that stronger global partnerships could lead to further sustainable development gains in the post-2015 era. ●

Issue	Elements
1. Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen domestic resource mobilization - Mobilize additional resources from multiple sources - Developed countries to fully implement their overseas development assistance
2. Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on access to science technology and innovation
3. Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building
4. Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization - Significantly increase the exports of developing countries
5. Systematic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy and institutional coherence - Multi-stakeholder partnerships - Data, Monitoring and accountability

Box: SDG Goal 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development - Key Elements

CARIBBEAN PRIORITIES AND RATIONALE

SDG	Rationale for Priority in the Caribbean
<p>Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	<p>In spite of the Caribbean's status as a middle income region, there remain significant levels of poverty, especially among vulnerable groups. Openness and vulnerability also mean that global economic changes and natural disasters can easily render large numbers of persons poor. Continued focus on eliminating poverty is necessary to sustain future development gains.</p>
<p>Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>While hunger and indigence are relatively low in the region, it is still a cause for concern. Also improved nutrition status to confront rising incidences of NCDs is a key challenge. Focus on Goal 2 will also provide the strategic policy impetus for revitalizing regional agriculture to address food security and diversify the regional economy.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>	<p>This will ensure a healthy and productive population and human resources necessary for advancing the sustainable development of Caribbean economies.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Given limited human resources, the region must maximize the use of its human talent through quality education, if it is to successfully participate in the knowledge economy and integrate into the global economy. Education for all is a key pre-requisite.</p>
<p>Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>The Caribbean still presents a number of institutional barriers to the maximization of the full social and economic potential of women and girls. It is also challenged by the apparent systemic failure of young men to fully prepare themselves for participation in the society and economy. This goal is therefore important for the future sustainable development of the region.</p>
<p>Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>Small watersheds, limited land space for waste disposal, and the need to protect and conserve coastal areas make this Goal an imperative for Caribbean SIDS.</p>
<p>Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>Energy security is one of the most binding constraints to economic development in the Caribbean, a region with some of the highest energy tariffs per capita in the world. The development of sustainable, clean and affordable energy is therefore crucial for future sustainable development.</p>

<p>Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>The Caribbean must achieve more robust economic growth over the medium to long term in order to overcome the key macro-economic challenges which confront the region, as well as create productive employment particularly for its youth.</p>
<p>Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>	<p>In light of the challenges of climate change and sea level rise, climate change adaptation through the building of resilient infrastructure is critical to the sustainable development of the region. Adaptation also provides the opportunity for re-engineering economic processes through innovation and new industry (eg. ICT, Creative Economy, and Services).</p>
<p>Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>Given the region’s high exposure to natural hazards, the integration of disaster risk reduction strategies in the development of human settlements must be a priority for future sustainable development. This approach will foster the building of sustainable housing and communities, as well as risk mitigation in established settlements.</p>
<p>Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>This is critical given the anticipated long term impacts of climate change. Related to Goals 9 & 11.</p>
<p>Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>Caribbean SIDS possess far greater maritime jurisdiction relative to their territorial space. Oceans offer prospects for economic and social development. Conservation is also critical for mitigating impacts which can limit sustainable development.</p>
<p>Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial eco-systems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p>Caribbean SIDS also possess unique biodiversity and ecosystems. Protection and preservation of these resources is critical for future sustainable development.</p>
<p>Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>Strong institutions are necessary for the administration of justice, efficient economic development, guarantee of human rights, citizen security and social protection, and the administration of justice. The Caribbean is currently facing important challenges in this sphere. Goal 16 is therefore critical for sustainable development of the region.</p>
<p>Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for development</p>	<p>The Caribbean’s position as largely middle income states and its inherent natural and economic vulnerability will require strong partnership in order to secure the necessary advocacy, and technical and financial resources to overcome its sustainable development challenges post-2015. Strong global partnership is therefore crucial in this regard.</p>

(continued from page 6)

included online and offline outreach efforts tailored to national circumstances, and closely linked to national development priorities. In addition, the [My World](#) initiative was established, to facilitate a truly global conversation in which each citizen could fully participate. Following the national consultations, a set of 11 multi-stakeholder [thematic consultations](#)¹ were convened on the following themes: education; inequalities; health; governance; conflict and fragility; growth and employment; environmental sustainability; hunger, nutrition and food security; population dynamics; energy; and water. Each thematic consultation was led by two or more UN agencies, which worked closely together

with representatives from civil society, the private sector and academia, as well as with co-hosting governments.

5. Regional consultations

In June 2013, a report was released that presented regional perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda.² The report was the result of an extensive regional consultation process, led by the Regional Economic Commissions.

6. Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) established 10 global expert groups to support global problem-solving in 10 critical areas of sustainable development. SDSN

provided technical support to the High-level Panel on the Post-2015

Development Agenda. Following an extensive public consultation, in June 2013 the network published its report on the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "[An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)". An edited version of the report was published in April 2014.³

7. UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact has been actively involved in ensuring that the views and contributions of businesses and the private sector feed into the post-2015 process. Its report entitled "Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda" was published in June 2013.⁴

UPCOMING EVENTS	LIST OF RECENT ECLAC DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS	
4th quarter		
9 October - Launch of the annual report : Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy – PANINSAL. <i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</i>	No.W.8 August/2014	Assessment of strategies for linking the Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
17 October - Expert Group meeting to review draft paper: An assessment of the performance of CARICOM extra-regional trade agreements <i>Port Of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (webex)</i>	No.W.7 August/2014	Review of ECLAC damage and loss assessments in the Caribbean
14-15 November - Caribbean technical meeting Beijing +20 review and appraisal <i>Santiago, Chile</i>	No.L.447 August/2014	Report of the meeting on sustainable energy in the Caribbean: reducing the carbon footprint in the Caribbean through the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies; promoting energy efficiency in the transport sector
2 December - Launch of the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. <i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</i>	No.L.446 August/2014	Report of Caribbean consultation at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
3 December - Expert group meeting on digital currencies. <i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (webex)</i>	No.L.445 July/2014	Report of the dialogue session: "Caribbean Small Island developing States Informal Preparatory meeting for the United Nations Small Island Developing States third preparatory committee meeting"
10-11 December - Regional seminar on time-use surveys <i>Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</i>	No.L.444r August/2014	Report of the expert group meeting to discuss first draft of the preliminary study to examine the impact of the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement on CARIFORUM countries
	No.L.443 June/2014	Report of the sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States
	No.L.442 June/2014	Report of the third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable

¹ <http://vote.myworld2015.org/>

² <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-regional-commissions-report-recommends-adapting-global-post-2015-goals-to-national-realities/>

³ <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/140430-Changes-to-SDSN-goals-and-targets-since-June.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/global-compact-report-1.pdf>



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