REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee endorsed the report of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism. It also welcomed the recommendations of the third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable through the adoption of resolution 83 (XXV), Support for the findings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

2. The CDCC endorsed the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, including subprogramme 13 on subregional activities in the Caribbean, through the adoption of resolution 85 (XXV), Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean, and took note of the report of the implementation of the biennium 2012-2013 programme of work.

3. The Committee took note of both the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be convened in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014.

4. The CDCC agreed that the location of the Seventeenth Meeting of its Monitoring Committee would be held at the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain in 2015. The exact date would be determined in consultation with the Chair.

5. The Committee adopted the following resolutions: resolution 81 (XXV), Support for the work of the ECLAC Port of Spain office in Disaster Assessments and Resilience Building in the Caribbean; resolution 82 (XXV), Promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities; resolution 83 (XXV), Support for the findings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable; resolution 84 (XXV), Revitalization of the coordinating roles and responsibilities of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism; resolution 85 (XXV), Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean; resolution 86 (XXV), Admission of Bermuda as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 87 (XXV), Admission of Curacao as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 88 (XXV), Admission of Guadeloupe as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 89 (XXV), Admission of Martinique as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; and resolution 90 (XXV), Support for Caribbean small island developing States in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the session


2. Attendance

7. Representatives of ten Member States attended the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives from four associate member countries also attended: Bermuda, Curacao, Guadeloupe and Martinique.
8. Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Panama, Sint Maarten, Spain, the United States of America, and Venezuela attended as observers.


10. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

11. A representative from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also attended.

12. A full list of participants in the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC is attached as annex I to the present report.

3. Election of officers

13. The delegations elected to preside over the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-fifth session were as follows:

Chairperson: Jamaica
Vice-chairpersons: Cuba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Rapporteur: Saint Lucia

4. Adoption of the agenda

14. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

5. Procedural matters and organization of work

15. The session was chaired by the Honourable Arnold Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.

16. The meeting adopted document CDCC/25/3, the provisional programme, setting out the organization of work.

6. Documentation

17. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session is attached as annex II to the present report.
C. AGENDA

18. Item 1. Opening of the session
   (a) Opening ceremony
   (b) Election of officers
   (c) Adoption of the agenda
   (d) Procedural matters and organization of work

19. Item 2. Introducing the priorities of small island developing States (SIDS) into the post-2015 development agenda

20. Item 3. Strategies to promote sustainable growth and build resilience in Caribbean SIDS

21. Item 4. Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

22. Item 5. Matters relating to the programme of work


24. Item 7. Welcome of new associate members of ECLAC to the CDCC

25. Item 8. Consideration and adoption of resolutions

26. Item 9. Date and venue of the seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

27. Item 10. Other matters

28. Item 11. Closure of the session

D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of the session

Opening remarks

19. At the opening of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, remarks were made by the following speakers:

   Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
   Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC
   The Honourable Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana
   The Honourable Arnold Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

20. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean opened the meeting and welcomed the guests. She thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica for the hospitality they had received the previous night. She noted that the presence of the Executive Secretary was indicative of her commitment to supporting development in the subregion.

21. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, and paid tribute to her leadership of the CDCC for the past two years. She then thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica for hosting the meeting, and the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for the work done. She expressed
satisfaction that her being in Jamaica provided the opportunity to observe Caribbean problems first-hand, and noted that the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC was being celebrated at a time when Caribbean SIDS needed to have their voices heard.

22. She underscored the influential role that Caribbean countries could play in advancing Caribbean interests, noting in particular that the discussions that had taken place over the last two days could help to focus the key messages in respect of the Caribbean SIDS that needed to be heard. She hoped that the next Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) would be able to situate the interests of the Caribbean in the post-2015 development agenda. She noted that 2014 marked 20 years since the Barbados Programme of Action and recalled anecdotally about her role in the shaping of the chapter in Agenda 21 that served as an important precursor to that meeting. She said that the Caribbean needed to become more strategic and effective in placing the SIDS plight on the international agenda.

23. The Executive Secretary emphasized the linkages between Latin America and the Caribbean subregion and the importance of engaging in solidarity schemes. She also emphasized the importance of the messages that the member States of the CDCC should be prepared to present to the rest of the world at international meetings. She concluded exhorting the Caribbean to persevere and to translate words into action.

24. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, outgoing Chair of the CDCC, expressed her gratitude to Jamaica for the hospitality extended, and thanked the Executive Secretary for moving the ECLAC Disaster Response Unit to the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. She also congratulated the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica on assuming the Chair of the CDCC.

25. She noted the importance of 2014 to SIDS, and pointed to the continuing challenges still to be addressed, including the high infant and maternal mortality rates and SIDS’ vulnerability to external, environmental and financial shocks. She urged the Caribbean to intensify its effort to extend the reach of its voice in the global community. She expressed appreciation for the presence of the overseas territories of France. She commended the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the ECLAC team for the focus given priority areas of development concern in the Caribbean, noting in particular the conduct of a review of the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement.

26. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica began by emphasizing the extreme importance of the CDCC session, given the challenges facing the subregion. He thanked the Executive Secretary for the increased ECLAC support and focus on the Caribbean. He paid tribute to the Director of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for work done to advance social development in the Caribbean. He also acknowledged the contributions of the late Norman Girvan and A.N.R. Robinson to Caribbean development. He noted that it was time for a new course of action, and that the Caribbean had an opportunity to chart a new course for SIDS. He spoke of the need to expand CDCC membership and expressed his pleasure that Bermuda, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Martinique would, at this session, join the CDCC family as associate members.

27. He recapped the points for reflection coming out the recent third CDR: the inadequacy of income per capita as a qualifier for assistance; the need for debt relief to complement fiscal management and after natural disasters; and the need for deeper integration among Caribbean countries. He underscored the need to address the slowdown of growth in the Caribbean – growth fell from three per cent in the 1990s to just under two per cent in the 2000s. He said there was need for a new growth agenda to help the regime transition to average growth rates of four per cent.

28. He noted the need to search for new growth poles based on sectors with comparative advantage, such as creative industries, and to increase efficiency in trade. He called on member States to recognize the private sector as the engine of growth, and also to address the fiscal reform needed.
29. He said that high levels of inequality and poverty thwarted the efforts of Caribbean peoples to achieve higher standards of living. He emphasized that there was need to coordinate, share best practices and lessons learned in development, and to mainstream climate change planning and risk mitigation. He then highlighted the need for advocacy of Caribbean SIDS issues and the need to build resilience in the subregion.

Election of officers

30. In accordance with Article 10 of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC, Jamaica assumed the Chair of the CDCC following the principle of rotation among the member countries in English alphabetic order of their names, Haiti having declined its turn in this rotation.

31. In accordance with Rule 13 of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC, the election of the Bureau of the Session was conducted. The representatives of Cuba, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were elected to serve as Vice-Chairs on the Bureau of the CDCC; Saint Lucia was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

Adoption of agenda

32. In his role as the new Chair of the CDCC, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica invited member States to consider the adoption of the agenda and opened the floor for comments. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Procedural matters and organization of work

33. The Committee was reminded that the report of its meeting was an official document to be considered at the thirty-fifth Session of the Commission being held from 5 to 9 May 2014. The Committee therefore agreed that, on an exceptional basis, the Secretariat would circulate the full draft report of the CDCC meeting on 28 April 2014 for review. It would be considered final on 2 May 2014 and provided to ECLAC headquarters for inclusion in the thirty-fifth Session of the Commission.

2. Integrating the priorities of small island developing States into the post-2015 development agenda

34. The presentation of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, entitled ‘Integrating the Priorities of Small Island Developing States into the Post-2015 Development Agenda’, situated the critical issues facing Caribbean SIDS within the framework of the ongoing global effort to shape sustainable development goals to respond to the challenges of the post-2015 era. She examined the priorities of Caribbean SIDS that should find expression in the post-2015 development agenda.

35. The Executive Secretary outlined a number of key principles adopted by the United Nations which should inform the post-2015 development agenda. These included the idea of the multilateral space as a community of interests where all countries should find a place at the table, and not merely as North-South cooperation, the enhancement of a culture of collective development actions based on tolerance for diversity, a strategic vision with an intergenerational approach promoting new equations and agreements, and the need for balance between State, market and society. She also identified as priorities the building of institutional capabilities to manage big data, and ensuring the continuity of policies and programmes, as well as strategies for better democracy and rule of law, access to information, and participation and justice by all actors.

36. She also reviewed the key lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals in setting the context for the evolution of the post-2015 development agenda, noting the progress made by
countries under the Goals, as well as some of the challenges. She recalled that the MDGs were, for the most part, shaped without integral participation of Member States. She further noted that, as a result, some of the critical challenges confronting member States were not captured by the MDGs, such as the attainment of gender equality, the generation of high quality and decent jobs, and the need to sustain overseas development assistance, especially to middle-income SIDS. Specifically, she indicated that Goal 7 was weak, particularly because it did not include disaster risk issues. Goal 8 was also seen as weak, since it identified the rich as the principal partners of the Goal. She noted that the new Sustainable Development Goals would be seeking to address some of these deficiencies.

37. She outlined the emerging regional perspectives which would inform the post-2015 development agenda, to include aspects such as fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, which was necessary but not sufficient. In this respect, she observed the need to move from basic needs to closing structural gaps, as well as from national developing country-oriented targets to universal objectives, with revised metrics. Other elements included equality and sustainability with productivity at the centre. In addition, she argued that the post-2015 development agenda required a global financing- and technology-transfer covenant, which was premised on a rights-based approach. She also observed that the goals of SIDS were to be more resilient, self-sufficient, secure and balanced. This new vision was based on sustained, shared prosperity, and transparent, accountable global governance. Summarizing, she felt that going forward would require a new development paradigm, where rights, accountable global governance, and equity would be important elements in decolonizing the post-2015 development agenda.

38. The Executive Secretary noted that the Caribbean has been very forceful in pursuing this new agenda. In addition, she identified three dimensions of inclusion for development - economic, social, and environmental - and that these were critical to meeting the aspirations of development. On this basis she observed that the central goals for the Caribbean were the total elimination of extreme poverty, ensuring the availability of public goods at all levels, and guaranteeing social protection.

39. She raised the question of parameters for global inclusion, and suggested that among these were our common but differentiated responsibilities, leaving no-one behind, securing financial stability and closing acute asymmetries in the global financial architecture, technology transfer to developing countries, fair trade and market access, and greenfield investment. She then outlined the process that would lead towards the crafting of the final post-2015 agreement and cited, as key steps, the International Year of SIDS, the open working groups, the final assessment of the Millennium Development Goals, financing for development, and the Third International Conference on SIDS, among others.

40. With respect to SIDS in particular, she also outlined limitations of the SIDS development model, such as low growth and balance-of-payments difficulties stemming from reduced export demand, declining trade and commodity prices, growing inequalities and unemployment, among others. She then summarized the specific economic challenges of Caribbean SIDS.

41. The Executive Secretary concluded with nine points which she felt were important for Caribbean SIDS going forward to the post-2015 process. These were: (i) Debt and fiscal: access to financing, taxation and spending; (ii) Capabilities: quality of education, science and technology; (iii) Digital inclusion: Information and communications technology use is five times greater in the highest-income quintile than in the lowest-income quintile; (iv) Segregation: gender, areas of residence, school segregation, health, transport; (v) Productivity: internal and external; (vi) Insufficient investment; (vii) Connectivity: infrastructure, public and private goods; (viii) Financial exclusion; and (ix) Resilience to climatic events.
3. Strategies to promote sustainable growth and build resilience in Caribbean small island developing States

42. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines presented the report of the third Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) to the CDCC. He began by thanking ECLAC for the privilege of presenting the report, and Jamaica for their hospitality in hosting the CDR. He noted that the third CDR had sought to explore approaches to sustainable development within the context of high debt and limited fiscal space.

43. He pointed to the summary report of the third CDR, and commended ECLAC for the speed and efficiency with which it had been able to produce the draft. He noted that the main issues and recommendations of the summary report were summarized under four categories: international, trade-related, regional and domestic issues.

44. He reported that the third Roundtable had identified three priorities at the international level. Firstly, Caribbean SIDS must focus on a narrow range of key priorities to be addressed at the meeting to take place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa and identify those that should be part of the post-2015 development agenda. Secondly, the Caribbean needed to look for partnerships to advance SIDS issues, including poverty and inequality, based on a re-energized regional integration movement and a clear vision of itself. Thirdly, the Caribbean needed to engage Latin America and other regions, especially in light of emerging regional trading arrangements, realising that the Caribbean had much to offer, especially language and culture, and that these must be marketed as integral to Caribbean comparative advantage.

45. He then addressed the three trade-related priorities identified by the third CDR. He spoke firstly of the need to negotiate more effective access to external markets and to utilize such access better. Secondly, he highlighted the importance of diversifying services production (including export services) - this could include health tourism, culinary tourism and heritage tourism. Thirdly, he pointed to the need to enable regional interconnection and to develop the social and cultural perspective which must inform the process. He noted that the reason was that the private incentives were often at variance with social demands and requirements.

46. The Minister noted that there were four key regional issues and recommendations in the summary report of the third CDR. He indentified, firstly, additional subregional financing mechanisms – along the lines of PetroCaribe – that would allow countries to access energy and other resources under less onerous terms and conditions should be developed. He then suggested that there was need to build backbone information and communications technology services, to increase subregional connectivity and integrate production and the movement of people. He also drew attention to the need for harmonization and coordination of Caribbean tax policies to address fiscal challenges at the subregional level and to avoid harmful tax competition. He articulated a need for the subregion to develop a strategic vision for the further development and engagement in Caribbean value chains. In so doing, the critical sectors producing goods and services would be identified.

47. Finally, he highlighted five domestic issues and recommendations identified in the third CDR that deserved the attention of the member States. Firstly, there was need for fiscal consolidation and, at the same time, for building institutions to preserve the benefits of such policies. Secondly, there was need to develop fiscal responsibility through fiscal rules and other mechanisms which would allow SIDS to avoid additional risk and fiscal stress. Thirdly, Caribbean SIDS should focus on tax reform to expand the tax base and reduce high tax rates while rationalizing public expenditure for social protection. Such programmes should aim at efficiency in service delivery and at eliminating leakage/waste. Fourthly, there was need to build fiscal covenants so that the costs and benefits of adjustment were assessed and the most vulnerable protected. Finally, the challenges to data collection at the national level needed to be addressed to assist evidence-based decision making.
48. The Honourable Minister encouraged the meeting to study the report carefully, since the conclusions and recommendations of the third CDR were critical to informing the International SIDS Conference in Samoa and the post-2015 development agenda.

4. Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

49. The Special Advisor to the President of Guyana and Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) presented the report of the Sixth Meeting of the TAC of the RCM for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The Chairman informed that the meeting of the TAC had been convened in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 15 April 2014, with attendance from six Member States of the CDCC (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), intergovernmental organizations (The Association of Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), subregional institutions (The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), and The Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)), development partners (the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), and the Australian High Commission), the European Union delegation, and representatives of United Nations country team in Trinidad and Tobago.

50. He outlined the meeting’s agenda, which included a review of progress in implementing the Mauritius Strategy (MSI) for the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), a discussion on strategies to overcome barriers to implementation of the MSI in the Caribbean, an update on the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/TAP), a presentation on an ICT platform to support BPoA/MSI, and discussion on the preparations of Caribbean SIDS for the Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa in 2014.

51. The Chairman identified barriers to the implementation of the MSI addressed by the TAC – lack of coordination and communication among national, regional and international entities; graduation to middle-income status; lack of access to official development assistance (ODA); and limited investment in science, technology and innovation – as the main constraints facing Caribbean SIDS. The meeting acknowledged that coordination at all levels remained an important barrier to implementation.

52. The Chairman advised the meeting that the objective of the SIDS/TAP initiative was to strengthen interregional and intraregional cooperation among SIDS. He noted that, since 1995, the initiative appeared to have stalled, particularly in light of the subsequent evolution of the Small Island Developing States Network, SIDSNet. He reported that, while the meeting questioned the role of the current SIDS/TAP in continuing to serve the development needs of SIDS, it endorsed the need to revitalize SIDS/TAP as a means of promoting South-South cooperation.

53. He also gave account of the demonstration of a proposed ICT platform for monitoring the progress of Caribbean SIDS under the MSI, which had been prepared by ECLAC. Among the main elements of the system were a facility for reporting on SIDS progress, experience-sharing, data- and information-gathering, and data analysis and reporting. In his report, the Chairman noted some of the possible limitations for use of the system to be the apparent lack of commitment by countries to share data and information, data availability, reporting fatigue, as well as issues of confidentiality. The meeting acknowledged the potential benefits of the platform, stressing that it should be supported by a communications action plan to ensure wide use.

54. The meeting engaged in extensive discussions with respect to preparations for going forward to Samoa, with attention being given to the need to prioritize development issues in order to
strengthen Caribbean negotiations, identification of existing gaps in the current zero draft document – extensive list of issues discussed, the need for a clear partnership strategy to ensure that the Caribbean came away from Samoa with tangible gains in the form of supported programmes and projects, the importance of ensuring a robust link between the SIDS agenda and the post-2015 development agenda, and the importance of Caribbean SIDS securing strong political buy-in and support for the negotiations.

55. He identified as the main conclusions of the meeting, with respect to the Third International Conference on SIDS, the recommendation that the Caribbean prepare specific and targeted programmatic proposals that would be focused on strong partnerships, given that the overarching theme of the Conference was “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”; and that the G77 document should be circulated for review and comments to ensure that priority areas were incorporated into the zero draft.

56. The Chair of the TAC further updated the meeting on the progress being made at the Inter-Sessional of the International Preparatory Meeting for the Samoa Conference at United Nations headquarters in New York. He informed the meeting of the ongoing concerns of the subregional negotiating teams in New York, which indicated a deficiency in briefing from subregional capitals in order to inform the negotiating process. He also indicated that, in the circumstances, non-SIDS countries were seeking to reshape the zero draft document going forward to the Samoa Conference by attempting to adjust the commitments made in previous multilateral agreements with respect to the particular circumstances of SIDS. In this regard, the Chair reiterated the need for clear briefings from Caribbean countries.

57. He then turned to the need to activate fully the previously-agreed Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the TAC, to make it fully functional in accordance with decisions made by the CDCC in previous meetings. He acknowledged the support provided by ECLAC as Secretariat in the interim, and recalled that ECLAC had, in the past, contracted personnel to provide direct technical support, in the form of a Regional Advisor to support the SIDS process and the RCM mechanism. Still, he observed that it was necessary for more substantive support from the countries through the establishment of the National Focal Point Mechanism in each country. At the same time, the Chair of the TAC inquired into the possibility of ECLAC once again providing a Regional Advisor to support the RCM/TAC, as it had done in the past.

58. In conclusion, he presented the following recommendations for consideration and endorsement by the CDCC:

- The CDCC should review the effectiveness of the support provided by ECLAC as the Secretariat of the RCM and seek a definitive response from ECLAC headquarters as to support for operationalization of the RCM;

- Based on the view that the role of the CDCC as the Inter-Governmental Body to provide leadership to the implementation of the BPoA and MSI had not been strong, the CDCC should identify ways to improve its effectiveness or should suggest alternative mechanisms to the Inter-Governmental Body;

- It was necessary that the CDCC address both support for the work of the TAC, and for the meaningful involvement of all countries and subregional institutions in the work of the TAC;

- Member States needed to ensure the identification of national focal point mechanisms, in order to commit to, and maintain linkages with, the RCM.
Ministerial discussion (agenda items 2, 3 and 4)

59. The Representative of Cuba thanked the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana for their contributions to the CDR, and offered his congratulations to the Government and people of Jamaica for the work done in hosting the meeting. He noted that the global economy was changing and in this regard, the Caribbean should not negotiate in isolation. He reflected that issues in developed countries continued the affect all of the subregion through, for example, the mechanism of the markets, as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. He observed that in the circumstances, improved regulatory oversight, employment generation and knowledge and technology were needed to increase growth. He also cited a number of specific strategic issues which should be considered for the future Caribbean development. These included the strengthening of alliances, such as, for example, PetroCaribe. Finally, the representative reiterated the need for a joint strategy for development between Latin America and the Caribbean.

60. The Representative of Mexico began his comments by thanking the Executive Secretary and ECLAC for the opportunity to participate in the CDCC. He also acknowledged Caribbean efforts to advance its development, and pointed to Mexico’s willingness to support Caribbean efforts given the common interests of Mexico and the Caribbean. He pointed out that, on 30 April 2014, Mexico will host the Sixth Summit of the ACS in Merida, Yucatan, jointly with CARICOM, and that this was an important forum for the exploration of matters related to trade and other issues pertinent to the development of the two regions.

61. The Representative of Guyana observed that the countries were saturated by the number of meetings, and wondered whether there was any mechanism for better coordination that would facilitate less need for meetings.

62. In response to the issue of improved natural resource governance, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC felt that it was important for the large multinationals to engage with Governments better, in order to achieve more improved environmental governance. She suggested that this was advisable to prevent increased conflict among investors and civil societies in member States. She also observed that the time might have come for a global discussion on natural resource governance, noting that this effort was already underway in places such as Africa. She stressed the importance of the issue.

63. The Executive Secretary also addressed the issue of strengthening the RCM, and wondered if there was space for an enhanced coordinating mechanism which could support all the regional entities such as CARICOM and ACS. She wondered about the possibility of standardized documents in the interest of better communication among agencies.

64. The meeting embraced the conclusions and recommendations of the third CDR, and endorsed the report of the TAC of the RCM.

5. Matters relating to the work programme

65. The Director noted that the work of the subregional office was part of the wider work of the United Nations that was approved by the Fifth Committee. She explained that she would present all the biennia consecutively to provide a sense of continuity in the work of the office. In discussing the highlights of the 2012-2103 biennium she noted that research and analysis were hallmarks of the work of ECLAC. She indicated that, in the 2012-2013 biennium, the work of ECLAC had covered a number of areas, including research studies, expert group meetings and technical cooperation. These were aimed at providing evidence-based analysis to guide improved policymaking in the subregion.

66. She referred to the report of Billie Miller on ways of strengthening the work of the subregional headquarters, which had recommended more action-oriented policies. In examining research areas, she highlighted energy efficiency and alternative energy, gender based violence, gender equality and empowerment. She also pointed out that, in the current biennium, there were
plans for comprehensive analysis in these areas. She underscored the research that had been done under the European Union-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement at the request of the Foreign Minister of Guyana. This work, undertaken in collaboration with CARICOM, had resulted in a comprehensive assessment of the development impact of the EPA on CARIFORUM countries and the challenges and opportunities arising from the Agreement, five years after its adoption. She also noted that within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, Trinidad and Tobago had requested ECLAC support in the implementation of a programme in the area of disabilities, intended to address concerns that vulnerable groups, especially persons living with disabilities, were being ‘left behind’.

67. The Director noted that the office had embarked on a focused effort to revitalize its trade analysis, including the recruitment of a trade specialist for this purpose. She indicated that ECLAC was collaborating with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, which was giving active consideration to the establishment of a Development Consortium to support the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, in which ECLAC would be invited to participate. She pointed out that the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean continued to be an important area of work that provided analysis on economic performance in the region.

68. She also pointed to the International Comparison Programme (ICP) project as a critical area in which ECLAC has assisted 22 Caribbean countries. She noted that the purchasing power parity (PPP) indicators that would result from the ICP were important for benchmarking living standards across countries. She indicated that ECLAC was a unique organization in the Caribbean because it allowed consultation at both technical and political levels, by using its convening power to undertake regular reviews under the auspices of the United Nations. In this regard, she referred to the first consultation on the post-2015 development agenda held in Bogota in March 2013 and the Mauritius Strategy for further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action regional report meeting held in Kingston in July 2013, which synthesized issues relating to sustainable development in the Caribbean.

69. The Director referred to the importance of ICT to areas of governance and broader development and the ECLAC plan to undertake work on cultural and creative industries, which were niches with yet untapped prospects for growth in the Caribbean. Moreover, in referring to climate change, she noted that the SIDS agenda was a broad one which should include wider development issues, and that extrabudgetary resources would be needed for mitigation efforts.

70. She indicated that ECLAC needed to present projects which were appealing to Member States. She requested support for the Samoa meeting on SIDS. She also indicated that ECLAC needed not only to roll out a new programme of training in the “Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer” (REDATAM) but also to find ways to use census data more innovatively.

71. She thanked the outgoing Chair for hosting the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and placed for consideration of report of that meeting. She also requested that the meeting endorse the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 and that the Monitoring Committee review the implementation of the current biennium’s work programme.

72. The ECLAC Officer for Sustainable Development noted that the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) had a project planned for the subregion and that she would be sending out the request for countries to express their interest in being a beneficiary of the project.

73. The Representative from Trinidad and Tobago thanked the Director for her comprehensive report and noted that the work of the office provided significant value-added for Member States. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for their warm hospitality and for hosting the meeting so capably. He indicated that he was quite satisfied with the areas of work that ECLAC had proposed especially in the areas of statistics, owing to the shortage of statistics in the subregion. Moreover, he noted that, more than data collection alone, data needed to be collected in ways that made them useable across different areas of research, that is, they had to be fungible.
74. The Representative from Jamaica commended the ECLAC team and noted that the programme of work was quite appropriate for the Caribbean. He joined his colleague from Trinidad and Tobago in highlighting the data gap in the subregion. He underscored the need for significant research in the area of services and capturing significant data in this area of analysis, especially since the Caribbean was losing competitiveness in this sector. He raised the issue of the ICT sector, suggesting that he was unsure whether the subregion had looked at other critical areas for the development of the sector, including its policy direction. He indicated that Jamaica had made progress in back office operations based partly on the expansion of broadband capacity, and might be able to provide lessons for others in the Caribbean. He sought clarification on what area was being funded by the German Government. In response, the ECLAC officer highlighted the areas funded by the GIZ project, including financing energy efficiency and renewable energy, the preparation of a manual on training in energy efficiency, and two subregional workshops to provide hands-on training in energy efficiency.

75. In responding to the Minister from Jamaica, the Director of ECLAC noted the need for a baseline infrastructure study on the ICT sector, looking at constraints and opportunities. She also indicated that ECLAC would be undertaking some work on the services sector.

76. The meeting endorsed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, and took note of the report of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.

6. Thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

77. The secretariat provided information on the organization of work, key messages and objectives of the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to take place in Lima, Peru from 5 to 9 May 2014. The meeting acknowledged the presentation.

7. Welcome of new associate members of ECLAC to the CDCC

78. The Chair welcomed Bermuda, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Martinique as the four new associate members, and indicated that their admission would bring the number of associate members in the CDCC to twelve. He assured the new associate members of the CDCC of the Committee’s commitment to strengthen its relationship with them, underscoring the value placed on their contribution to Caribbean cooperation, integration and development. He then invited the representatives to address the meeting.

79. The Representative of Bermuda extended thanks to the Representative of Jamaica on the warm hospitality received, and congratulated him on his assumption to the Chair. He stated that his country looked forward to strengthening its relationship with the wider membership of the CDCC.

80. The Representative of Curaçao thanked the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality. She also thanked the Foreign Minister of Guyana for supporting their membership. She pointed out that the Netherlands Antilles had been participating in the work of the CDCC since the 1980s. However, the Kingdom of Netherlands constitutional reform in 2010 required Curaçao to seek independent membership in regional and international bodies. She was, therefore, pleased that CDCC had acceded to the request of Curaçao.

81. The Representative of Guadeloupe noted that she was delighted to be at the twenty-fifth meeting of CDCC, and thanked both the Executive Secretary for her remarkable work, especially with the support of the Caribbean subregional office, and the Government of Jamaica for their hospitality. She then thanked the other member countries for giving Guadeloupe the opportunity to be part of the CDCC. She informed the meeting that Guadeloupe had joined the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in April 2014, and was negotiating for membership of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean
States and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). She indicated that Guadeloupe had to face similar challenges to other Caribbean SIDS including climate change, fluctuating tourist arrivals and the broader challenge of sustainable development. To articulate responses to these challenges, the Regional Council of Guadeloupe would organize the “Conference of Biodiversity and Climate Change” in Guadeloupe from 22 to 25 October 2014. All Member States and Observers were invited to participate in the meeting. She noted that ACS and CARICOM were committee members of their development fund – the European Union Interreg Community Initiative (INTERREG) – and expressed the hope that the CDCC could also become a member of the committee.

82. The Representative of Martinique expressed thanks to the Foreign Minister of Guyana for all the support in her country’s bid for associate membership. She also thanked the Government and people of Jamaica for their warm welcome. She noted that she was very aware of the situation in SIDS as the problems were similar to those of Guadeloupe. She suggested that the meeting needed to arrive at concrete solutions to the development problems of SIDS and that the CDCC needed to provide a common response to those difficulties. She noted that there needed to be a modality to take into account the different characteristics of member countries of the CDCC.

83. The Chair noted that, under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, the CDCC had been able to expand by four associate members, and this would enrich the organization.

8. Consideration and adoption of resolutions

84. The following resolutions were considered by the meeting: Resolution 81 (XXV), Support for the work of the ECLAC Port of Spain office in Disaster Assessments and Resilience Building in the Caribbean; resolution 82 (XXV), Promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities; resolution 83 (XXV), Support for the findings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable; resolution 84 (XXV), Revitalization of the coordinating roles and responsibilities of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism; resolution 85 (XXV), Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean; resolution 86 (XXV), Admission of Bermuda as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 87 (XXV), Admission of Curaçao as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 88 (XXV), Admission of Guadeloupe as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; resolution 89 (XXV), Admission of Martinique as an associate member of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; and resolution 90 (XXV), Support for Caribbean small island developing States in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

85. Resolutions 81, 82, 83, 84, 86 and 87 were adopted without amendment. Resolutions 85, 88, 89 and 90 were adopted with amendments as follows:

a. Resolution 85 was amended to reflect two new operative clauses:

4. Supports the requests for the greater inclusion of CDCC Associated Member countries in ECLAC studies and economic, social and statistical reports;

5. Welcomes the proposal of Guadeloupe and Martinique for the inclusion of ECLAC through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, as a member of the steering committee of the European Union INTERREG Caribbean Programme;

b. Resolution 88 was amended to replace ‘Government’ with ‘Regional Council’ in preambular clause 4;

c. Resolution 89 was amended to replace ‘Government’ with ‘Regional Council’ in preambular clause 4;
d. Resolution 90 was amended as follows:

In operative clause 2, ‘producting’ was replaced with ‘production of’;

Two new operative clauses were added:

8. Agrees to maintain a structured approach and revitalize the intergovernmental council to guide the RCM to work closely with ECLAC;

9. Recommits to strengthen national focal point mechanisms;

A typographical error in the word ‘Conference’ was corrected.

86. The full text of the resolutions adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC is included in section E of the present report.

9. Date and venue of the seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

87. The seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be held at ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain, in 2015. The exact date would be determined in consultation with the Chair.

10. Other matters

88. The Representative from Trinidad and Tobago stated that he was of the impression that there was a consensus regarding a proposal put forward by Trinidad and Tobago, in which the needs of Caribbean SIDS reached into forums where the Caribbean was not normally represented. Specific mention was made of the SIDS development agenda and interests being taken up by the global economic council of the G20. However, the documents and resolutions coming out of this meeting did not reflect this. He suggested that this should not be lost sight of and he wondered if a legal mechanism could be found to facilitate this by the incoming Chair of Government. He wondered if every effort should be made by heads of government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs in all important developmental forums to have the issues and priorities of Caribbean SIDS represented.

89. The Representative of Guyana mentioned that this had been discussed but that, with the Chair of the ACS being a member of the G20, it might not be necessary to name an individual State. She suggested that the Heads could raise the matter in that forum being backed up by the data and facts prepared by ECLAC. The Chair was not of the impression that the request of a specific country had been captured in a specific resolution, and this was confirmed by the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago. The Chair stated that the Executive Secretary would address the meeting about her meeting with the Prime Minister of Jamaica.

90. The Representative of Guyana thanked the Chair on management of the meeting and other staff of the Government of Jamaica, and complimented the Executive Secretary and the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and her staff for the work done.

91. The Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia, in his capacity as Rapporteur, provided a summary of the day’s events.
11. Closure of the session

92. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Chair and the Government of Jamaica for their warmth and courtesies, as well as their inputs to the meeting. She also thanked the outgoing Chair for her exemplary leadership as Chair of the CDCC. She pointed out that what the Member States did was to entrust the Chair of the CDCC and its Government with presenting the needs and concerns of Caribbean SIDS in any subregional, regional or international forum, and noted that the same was being asked of Peru in their capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth Session of the Commission. She noted that the Prime Minister of Jamaica felt that she represented the CDCC. She noted that, in the same way that a quartet had been established with the outgoing Chair to ensure that the needs of Caribbean SIDS were articulated in all forums, Peru and Jamaica should work together with El Salvador and Mexico to form a similar group to articulate and represent the needs and concerns of Caribbean SIDS. The Executive Secretary thanked the Director and staff of the Port of Spain office for their hard work, the interpreters for their excellent work and the Member States and observers for their presence and interest.

93. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica thanked the delegates for their early support to the Chairmanship of Jamaica. He noted that Jamaica had taken over at the same time that the CDCC welcomed four new associate members, pointing out that their inclusion would enrich the discussions and development agenda in this International Year of SIDS. He pledged to follow the sound leadership established in prior years, and asked for the support of the Member States. He expressed the pleasure of the Government of Jamaica in hosting the meeting and thanked ECLAC for its guidance.
E. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

81 (XXV) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECLAC PORT OF SPAIN OFFICE IN DISASTER ASSESSMENTS AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling its resolutions 58 (XIX) of 2002 and 66 (XXI) of 2006 in support of efforts in natural disasters and in the training of national teams to conduct disaster assessments with national human resources,

Recalling that the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) of 1994 affirmed that “small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to natural as well as environmental disasters and have a limited capacity to respond to and recover from such disasters”,¹

Noting that ECLAC research has demonstrated that a single natural disaster, such as a major hurricane, could eventually set back the development process by as much as a decade in Caribbean SIDS²,

Recognising that the assessment of the cost of disasters through the ECLAC methodology for socio-economic and environmental assessment of natural disasters and the UN country team’s Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) process constitute essential tools for gauging country needs that are used to shape a credible appeal for donor assistance in rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Taking into account the presentation of the Secretariat on the in-depth revision and updating of the ECLAC methodology for the socio-economic and environmental assessment of natural disasters focused on improving the costing of environmental impacts, modelling and scenario/sensitivity analysis for providing options for reconstruction in the aftermath of disasters,

1. Encourages the ECLAC Secretariat, through the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, to continue to provide assistance to Member States with respect to damage and loss assessment;

2. Proposes for consideration of the Plenary of the Commission that the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean become the focal point for disaster assessments in the Caribbean;

3. Calls upon the Commission to provide greater attention to disaster assessment and resilience building in the Caribbean and thus to incorporate the corresponding provisions in subprogramme 13 on Subregional Activities in the Caribbean to more effectively respond to the specific needs of Caribbean SIDS, particularly in the context of climate change;

4. Requests the Commission to further adapt to the particular needs and circumstances of the Caribbean SIDS the ECLAC methodology for socioeconomic and environmental assessment of natural disasters that was recently revised and updated in-depth;

5. Calls for expanding disaster assessment training activities in Caribbean member States so as to increase their capacity to collect and organize baseline information to facilitate post-disaster assessments.

82 (XXV)   PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Recalling the mandate entrusted to the Committee as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to promote the development of policies and activities linked to social development and to promote and strengthen cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean subregion,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in December 2006, is a landmark convention which affirms the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and that the Convention is a powerful tool for development,

Recognizing Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/28 of 25 July 2013 which “encourages the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda”, and “encourages member States, regional commissions and regional organizations to include, as appropriate, the perspectives of men, women and children with disabilities in development cooperation and national development priorities”;

Recognizing also the Declaration of Pétion Ville, adopted in December 2013, in which Caribbean Community countries agreed to address with renewed energy and dedication the development of legal frameworks to give effect to the commitments made in international and regional agreements relating to the rights of persons with disabilities,

Acknowledging that persons with disabilities are too often denied their right to full and equal participation in society and that strategies, policies and programmes for persons with disabilities have not been sufficient to break down barriers to equal participation,

Noting that population ageing will increase the number of persons with disabilities over the coming two decades and beyond,

Concerned that the increase of chronic non-communicable diseases, many associated with unhealthy lifestyles, is also increasing the prevalence of disability,

1. Welcomes the continued efforts of the ECLAC Secretariat, in particular its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, to support its member States and associate members in the implementation of international agreements concerning persons with disabilities;

2. Calls on those Caribbean countries which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including its Optional Protocol, and to develop national laws, policies, and institutional arrangements to secure the rights for persons with disabilities as recognized in this Convention;

3. Requests CDCC member States and associate members, in particular their respective National Statistical Offices, to review the statistical information available on persons with disabilities and the difficulties encountered in assessing the status of persons with disabilities with a view to developing a common framework for national and regional data collection and standardized measurement of progress towards internationally agreed goals and to report to the Commission on progress made in this regard;

4. Requests the Commission, based on the outcome of such review above and in collaboration with other regional organizations, to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Declaration of Pétion Ville;

5. Calls for the issue of disability to be adequately addressed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
SUPPORT FOR THE FINDINGS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Recalling its resolution 73 (XXIII) adopted at the twenty-third session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in 2010, which invited key parties to join the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in spearheading a Caribbean Development Roundtable to consider the sustainable development challenges and opportunities of the subregion,

Recalling also its resolution 76 (XXIV) adopted in 2012, which called on development partners, including the Caribbean Community, the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to partner with ECLAC in convening the Caribbean Development Roundtable and promoting it as a central forum for addressing development concerns in the Caribbean,

Noting that 2014, which is being observed as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (IYS) creates an opportunity for Caribbean countries to reflect on the progress made while acknowledging continuing challenges in their pursuit of sustainable development,

Concerned that the region continues to be faced with limited access to and high cost of finance, low growth and considerable fiscal stress,

Recognising that the development challenges faced by the countries of the subregion demand a search for new opportunities to improve economic growth, strengthen social protection and to enhance disaster and environmental resilience,

Acknowledging that in 2015 the Global Development Agenda would eventually address a new set of sustainable development goals and that the Caribbean subregion should be prepared to articulate its own vision within the broader framework of global sustainable development,

1. Endorses and supports the continued biennial convening of the Caribbean Development Roundtable as a high level forum to focus on workable solutions and best practices in the pursuit of sustainable development;

2. Welcomes the recommendations of the third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable;

3. Strongly urges CDCC member States and Associate Members to consider the policy options emerging from the discussions on strategies for sustained growth and development in Caribbean SIDS, as well as mechanisms to operationalize these options; and encourages the international community to support CDCC member States and Associate Members in this regard;

4. Renews the call for development partners, including the Caribbean Community, the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as the UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes to partner with ECLAC in convening the Caribbean Development Roundtable and promoting it as a central forum for addressing development concerns in the Caribbean.
84 (XXV) REVITALIZATION OF THE COORDINATING ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Recalling its resolutions 65(XXI) of 2006,3 71(XXII) of 20084 and 74(XXIII) of 20105 on the Regional Coordinating Mechanism and its Technical Advisory Committee, to support implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 65/2 of 15 October 2010, which renews commitments to further implement the Mauritius Strategy and underscores the urgency in pursuing additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, and 67/207 of 21 December 2012 that established the parameters of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Independent State of Samoa, to further assess the progress to date, to identify the remaining gaps in the implementation and to address new and emerging challenges facing small island developing States,

Acknowledging the need to enhance regional coordination in support of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States by strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and building partnerships,

Recalling the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, convened in Bogota, on 5 March 2013, which sought to revitalize the role of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism in respect of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States, and to strengthen coordination and oversight in this regard,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to fully operationalize the Regional Coordinating Mechanism in the Caribbean for monitoring and supporting progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Calls upon the CDCC member States and associate members, in this regard, to make the National Focal Point Mechanism of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism fully functional;

3. Endorses the elements of the work programme presented by the Technical Advisory Committee to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and requests the preparation of a more detailed plan for the consideration of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism;

4. Invites the Secretariat of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to consider in its work plan the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States within the context of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

3 (LC/CAR/L.086).
4 (LC/CAR/L.196rev.1).
5 (LC/CAR/L.257).
5. **Requests** the Secretariat of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community, to work towards building an Information and Communication Technology Platform that will support the sharing of information in monitoring progress made in the implementation of each thematic area of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States;

6. **Encourages** more active exploration and pursuit of partnerships among Caribbean small island developing States and between Caribbean small island developing States and other cooperation partners in pursuit of South-South Cooperation modalities, including triangular cooperation;

7. **Supports** development of a strategy for the mobilization of resources in support of the work of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism.
The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Recalling resolution 358 (XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recalling also resolution 29 (XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55 (XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

Recognizing resolution 75 (XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

Recalling resolution 79 (XXIV) of 2012 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the recommendations of the second phase of the in-depth evaluation on strengthening the role of the Commission in the Caribbean subregion, and requested the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the continued implementation of the recommendations and report its findings to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-fifth session,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee Secretariat and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account the special development challenges of countries in the Caribbean subregion, which are related to their small size, open, narrow and undiversified economies, fragile ecosystems, and multiple inherent vulnerabilities,

1. Takes note of the Report of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its sixteenth meeting held in Georgetown on 11 July 2013; 6

2. Expresses appreciation for the implementation rates, results achieved and impact derived from the work programme carried out by ECLAC Subprogramme 13 Subregional Activities in the Caribbean in the 2012-2013 biennium;

3. Endorses the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, particularly subprogramme 13 on Subregional Activities in the Caribbean and calls upon the Plenary of ECLAC to adopt it subject to the outcomes of its deliberations;

6 LC/CAR/L.417.
4. **Supports** the requests for the greater inclusion of CDCC Associated Member countries in ECLAC studies and social, economic and statistical reports;

5. **Welcomes** the proposal of Guadeloupe and Martinique for the inclusion of ECLAC, through its subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, as a member of the steering committee of the European Union INTERREG Caribbean Programme;

6. **Welcomes** actions towards the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the second phase of the evaluation report entitled “In-depth Evaluation of the Role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the Caribbean – Phase II”;

7. **Further requests** the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the work programme and the continued implementation of the recommendations made in the evaluation exercise and to report on progress made to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its next session.
86 (XXV) ADMISSION OF BERMUDA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples of the Caribbean be strengthened,

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which in its Article 5 stipulates that “membership of the CDCC may be acquired by countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean that become members and associate members of ECLAC”;

Aware that Bermuda was granted associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean by resolution 662 (XXXIV) at its thirty-fourth session held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 27 to 31 August 2012,

Noting that by letter dated 16 April 2014, the Government of Bermuda requested that CDCC consider its application for associate membership in the Committee,

Taking into account the United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, “requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining non-self-governing territories within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories”;

Decides to admit Bermuda as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.
87 (XXV) ADMISSION OF CURAÇAO AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples of the Caribbean be strengthened,

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which in its Article 5 stipulates that “membership of the CDCC may be acquired by countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean that become members and associate members of ECLAC”,

Aware that Curaçao was granted associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean by resolution 663 (XXXIV) at its thirty-fourth session held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 27 to 31 August 2012,

Noting that by letter dated 10 April 2014, the Government of Curaçao requested that CDCC consider its application for associate membership in the Committee,

Taking into account the United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, “requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining non-self-governing territories within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories”,

Decides to admit Curaçao as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.
The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples of the Caribbean be strengthened,

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which in its Article 5 stipulates that “membership of the CDCC may be acquired by countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean that become members and associate members of ECLAC”,

Aware that Guadeloupe was granted associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean by resolution 664 (XXXIV) at its thirty-fourth session held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 27 to 31 August 2012,

Noting that by letter dated 20 March 2014, the Regional Council of Guadeloupe requested that CDCC consider its application for associate membership in the Committee,

Taking into account the United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, “requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining non-self-governing territories within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories”,

Decides to admit Guadeloupe as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.
89 (XXV) ADMISSION OF MARTINIQUE AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC),

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples of the Caribbean be strengthened,

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which in its Article 5 stipulates that “membership of the CDCC may be acquired by countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean that become members and associate members of ECLAC”,

Aware that Martinique was granted associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean by resolution 665 (XXXIV) at its thirty-fourth session held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 27 to 31 August 2012,

Noting that by letter dated 25 March 2014, the Regional Council of Martinique requested that CDCC consider its application for associate membership in the Committee,

Taking into account the United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, “requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining non-self-governing territories within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories”,

Decides to admit Martinique as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.
The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling its resolutions 65(XXI) of 2006,7 71(XXII) of 20088 and 74(XXIII) of 20109 on the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), to support implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 65/2 of 15 October 2010, which renews commitments to further implement the Mauritius Strategy and underscores the urgency in pursuing additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner;

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, and 67/207 of 21 December 2012 that established the parameters of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Independent State of Samoa, to further assess the progress to date, to identify the remaining gaps in the implementation and to address new and emerging challenges facing small island developing States,

Acknowledging the need to produce a document arising out of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Independent State of Samoa, that will reflect the interests of Caribbean SIDS,

Recalling the Sixth Meeting of the TAC, convened in Port of Spain on 15 April 2014, which sought to revitalize the role of the RCM in respect of the influencing the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Independent State of Samoa,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to fully support the RCM in the Caribbean for monitoring and supporting progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and to take appropriate actions to fill the gaps on the effective functioning of the RCM;

2. Reaffirms its support to the technical team of negotiators working on behalf of Caribbean small island developing States towards the production of an outcome document from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Independent State of Samoa;

3. Notes progress in discussions on the draft outcome being held at the United Nations towards finalization of the document;

4. Expresses its concern with the attempts by some developed countries to dilute the commitments made in previous international conferences and to shift towards higher requirements on SIDS;

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7 (LC/CAR/L.086).
8 (LC/CAR/L.196rev.1).
9 (LC/CAR/L.257).
5. **Decides** to actively engage with Caribbean SIDS negotiators in the United Nations to strengthen the negotiating position of Caribbean SIDS at the preparatory meetings;

6. **Agrees** to provide support in the shaping of a document that is persuasive in identifying the challenges facing Caribbean small island developing States and, in this regard, strengthening the advocacy in the upcoming negotiations;

7. **Requests**, in this regard, the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in identifying resources for the convening of a three day technical meeting in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to identify persuasively the critical issues in respect of Caribbean SIDS which must be placed before the international community in Samoa;

8. **Agrees** to maintain a structured approach and revitalize the intergovernmental council to guide the RCM to work closely with ECLAC;

9. **Recommits** to strengthen national focal point mechanisms;

10. **Decides** to mobilize its national and regional stakeholders to make effective use of the opportunity presented by the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to advance the Caribbean SIDS agenda.
Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Member States

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Representative:
- Denise Knight, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration

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

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

GUYANA
Representative:
- Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Delegation member:
- Navin Chandarpal, Adviser to the President of Guyana

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

Delegation members:
- Hon. Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- H.E. Paul Robotham, Ambassador, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Lisa Bryan Smart, Assistant Director, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Shernette Burton, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Janice Miller, Undersecretary, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Sharon Miller, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Vonroy Rochester, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
Representative:
- Hon. Patrice Nisbett, Minister of Foreign Affairs

SAINT LUCIA
Representative:
- Hon. Alva Baptiste, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
Representative:
- Senator Hon. Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs
SURINAME
Representative:
- Shefferon Kartowikromo, Second Secretary, Embassy of Suriname of Trinidad and Tobago

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Representative:
- H. E. Dennis Francis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Director for Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

B. Associate members

BERMUDA
Representative:
- Charles Brown, Director, Sustainable Development Unit

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

Delegation member:
- Arthur Nieuw, Senior Policy Officer, Directorate of Foreign Relations

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

Delegation members:
- Jean-Marc Mompelat, Director, Bureau of Geological and Mining Research for the French West Indies and French Guyana
- Ingrid Soudan, Officer responsible for the ECLAC desk, Regional Cooperation Bureau, Regional Council of Guadeloupe

MARTINIQUE
Representative:
- Christiane Mage, President of the Cooperation Committee, Regional Council of Martinique

Delegation member:
- Jean-Yves Lacascade, Director, European Affairs and Cooperation, Regional Council of Martinique

C. Observers

ARGENTINA
Representative:
H.E. Ariel Fernández, Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina in Jamaica

Delegation member:
- Juan Jorge Nuñez, Minister at the Embassy of the Republic of Argentina in Jamaica
BRAZIL
Representative:
- Afonso Celso Nery, Counsellor, Embassy of Brazil in Jamaica

CANADA
Representative:
- Robert Ready, High Commissioner, High Commission of Canada in Jamaica

CHILE
Representative:
- H.E. Eduardo Bonilla Menchaca, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile in Jamaica

COLOMBIA
Representative:
- William Bush, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Colombia in Jamaica
Delegation member:
- Daniel Rojas, Naval Attaché, Embassy of Colombia in Jamaica

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

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

JAPAN
Representative:
- H.E. Yasuo Takase, Ambassador of Japan in Jamaica
Delegation member:
- Hiromoto Oyama, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Jamaica

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

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Representative
- Seong Hoon Kim, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Jamaica

SINT MAARTEN
Representative:
- Khalilah Peters, Head (a.i.), Directorate of Foreign Relations
Delegation members:
- Joy Arnell, Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labour
- Okama Brook, Senior Policy Adviser, Department of Interior Affairs Kingdom Relations

SPAIN
Representative
- H.E. Celsa Nuño, Ambassador of Spain in Jamaica
Delegation members:
- Fernando Fernández-Arias, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
- Victoria Tur Gómez, Chargée d'Affaires Embassy of Spain in Jamaica
- Carlos Moret, Project Manager AECID-CARICOM, Spanish Agency for Cooperation, Venezuela

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Representative
- Kevin Daucher, Second Secretary, Political and Economic Section, Embassy of the United States of America in Jamaica

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

D. United Nations Programmes and Funds

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Asha Bobb-Semple, Programme Associate - Policy Support, UNDP Jamaica Office

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Sheila Roseau, Director, UNFPA subregional Office in Jamaica

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative in Jamaica
- Joaquin Gonzales Aleman, Regional Social Policy Adviser, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- Christine Arab, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean

E. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- John Ronald D. Ford, Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO)
- Cesar Toro, Programme Specialist, Natural Science, UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- Margarete Sköld, Country Representative for Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Jamaica, Regional Office in Jamaica

World Bank (WB)
- Galina Sotirova, Operations Advisor

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Bert Van Selm, Resident Representative in Jamaica
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Cleveland Thomas, Area Representative, ITU Area Office for the Caribbean

F. Other intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)
- Jeanelle Van GlaanenWeygel, OAS Representative in Jamaica

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Richard Bernal, Senior Counselor for Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Washington D.C Office

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Carla Barnett, Vice-President Operations

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Evelyn Wayne, Director, Economic Policy and Development

Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)
- Maryam Amsale, Chairperson

G. Donor agencies

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Denise Herbol, Mission Director, USAID Office in Jamaica

H. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary
- Omar Bello, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

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

ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico
- Randolph Gilbert, Coordinator and Focal Point for Haiti
Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, Kingston, 25 April 2014

*Meeting documents*

| CDCC/25/1 | Provisional agenda |
| CDCC/25/2 | Provisional annotated agenda |
| CDCC/25/3 | Provisional programme |
| CDCC/25/4 | Report of the Sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism |
| CDCC/25/5 | Report of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 |
| CDCC/25/6 | Programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 |
| CDCC/25/7 | Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 |
| CDCC/25/8 | Date and venue of the Seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee |

*Other documents*

Consideration and adoption of resolutions