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Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI), Third Meeting

Port of Spain, 13 April 2011

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES  
OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR THE MAURITIUS  
STRATEGY FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
2012- 2013<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean of ECLAC



## 1. Introduction

The proposed programme of activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI), for the period 2012-2013, forms part of the ECLAC Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

This subprogramme of work is the responsibility of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which also serves as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). At the twenty-first session of the CDCC in January 2006, member governments agreed to set up a RCM for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the BPoA. This office will continue to provide technical support to the governments of the subregion to facilitate public policymaking and decision-making to address the main challenges posed by sustainable development in the economic and social spheres.

The broad objective of the TAC of the RCM, as agreed, was “to assist the small island developing States of the Caribbean in meeting their commitments under the Mauritius Strategy for further implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (MSI) in the Caribbean. The more specific objective was to equip the Caribbean SIDS with a centralized, effective and dedicated mechanism for the co-ordination of sustainable human development initiatives in the Caribbean subregion with a view to streamlining resource use, reducing duplication and promoting coordination, planning and information-sharing nationally and regionally”<sup>2</sup>

In the 2012-2013 biennium, the secretariat to the TAC will continue to support the TAC as it focuses on: (a) institutional strengthening and capacity-building which is principally targeted at providing the necessary technical assistance to countries in their continued implementation of the MSI and as it may be articulated through the Rio+20 process; (b) scaling up the gathering and dissemination of information with special attention to best practices. RCM members, through their focal points, will be encouraged to submit information that can be hosted and disseminated through a specially designed web portal with special attention to inclusion of SIDS from other parts of the world; (c) encouraging the development/strengthening of partnerships to fulfil the mandate of the MSI. Activities in this area conducted through the workings of the TAC and its Inter-Governmental Council (IGC) will result in strengthened relations; (d) increasing public awareness and communication. The activities within this area are meant to keep policymakers fully aware of the work of the TAC and its IGC; and (e) assisting members of the RCM in providing effective management of deliverables and follow-up of the MSI, through the updating of the Regional Implementation Matrix for the implementation of the MSI in the subregion.

The activities of the TAC are based, not only on the BPoA and the MSI but also on the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on 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 the approval of the IGC of the RCM.

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<sup>2</sup> Report of the TAC for the period 2008-2009, presented to the Second Meeting of the TAC, 7 September 2009.

The high-level review concluded with a renewed commitment (para. 34) from governments:

“ ... to fulfil our commitments to further implement the Mauritius Strategy and underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner. We recognize that the way forward for sustainable development requires that coordinated, balanced and integrated actions be taken at all levels, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community with the aim of building the resilience of small island developing States in overcoming their unique and particular vulnerabilities and in reflecting their respective national priorities and needs”.

Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), called for the strengthening of the RCM.

The proposed activities are intended to help governments in the Caribbean achieve their goals and commitments made in the MSI and following its high-level review. Any additional activities would require extrabudgetary financing.

The work of the secretariat will be reviewed annually at the meetings of the TAC and at the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC and at the IGC of the RCM.

## 2. Objective of the activities and expected accomplishments

To accelerate the implementation of the MSI for further implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, at the regional and national levels.

<b>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Effective follow-up of the positions agreed to by the members of the RCM through the High Level Review of the MSI and articulated through the Rio+20 process	Effective participation of RCM members at the Rio+20 ensuring articulation of SIDS positions as outlined in the MSI.
(b) Increased accessibility of information and knowledge on best practices and policy options	Increased number of inputs uploaded to website (40%); Increased use of website for information (40%);
(c) Strengthening of partnerships between Caribbean SIDS, development partners and South-South partners	Increased number (20%) of countries working together on programmes or projects and expressing satisfaction from knowledge sharing with South counterparts.

### **3. Details of activities**

#### **A. Institutional strengthening and capacity-building**

1. Encourage members of the RCM to monitor the implementation of the MSI:
  - (a) Through regular reporting of focal points on implementation of the MSI to the TAC
2. Encourage full participation of members in the Rio+20 process through participation in the following:
  - (a) The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
  - (b) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), Brazil

#### **B. Scaling up, gathering and dissemination of information with special attention to best practices**

1. Focal points are encouraged to submit programmes and projects to the secretariat of the TAC that are examples of best practices in the implementation of the MSI
2. Focal points are encouraged to submit to the secretariat of the TAC relevant research being conducted by development partners, academic institutions, inter governmental bodies and national level experts
3. Such information will be uploaded on the TAC website
4. Notification of new uploads will be widely disseminated by the secretariat

#### **C. Encourage the development/strengthening of partnerships**

1. The TAC should strengthen member and associate member States' knowledge of the RCM and its role
2. TAC members should meet face-to-face annually to review its work and by teleconference as may be necessary;
3. Present progress report of the work of the TAC to the IGC
4. The TAC should liaise with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Inter-Agency Consultative Group SIDS Unit in the furtherance of the implementation of the MSI
5. The TAC should maintain close working relations with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the CARICOM Secretariat

**D. Increase public awareness and communication**

1. The TAC should prepare and disseminate an electronic newsletter targeted to policymakers on the activities of the RCM in implementing of the MSI
2. Reports of the TAC and its IGC should be disseminated widely

**E. Effective management of deliverables and follow-up as outlined in the work programme**

1. Review of the Regional Implementation Matrix for the implementation of the MSI once during the biennium
2. Presentation of a progress report on the work of the TAC annually.



