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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC WORK PROGRAMME
SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

2006 - 2007 biennium

[Covering the period 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2007]

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A. INTRODUCTION

The focus of the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat during the 2006-2007 biennium continued to be on assistance to member governments of the subregion with policy-making and development strategies, especially on issues relevant to the promotion of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development in the Caribbean. The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean worked closely with member countries of the CDCC in an effort to ensure the relevance of outputs which would inform policy options. This involved the strengthening of partnerships with both regional and subregional institutions and relevant agencies of the United Nations system working in the Caribbean.

A major decision was taken to refocus the operational aspects of the secretariat to ensure that they were relevant to the development goals of its members. This involved the introduction of a thematic approach to the work of the office. One of the changes resulting from this was the restructuring and renaming of the Caribbean Documentation Centre. The Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC), as it is now known, has changed its emphasis from organizing and disseminating documents, and is now a more proactive partner in the research undertaken by staff and other users of the service. The CKMC manages the ECLAC website, the public face of the organization. Newsletters and all other documents, including Information and Communications Technology (ICT) profiles of selected countries, prepared by the secretariat, are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website www.eclacpos.org. The Caribbean Knowledge Management Portal was launched at a meeting of information specialists in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2007. In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of reducing the cost of printing or disseminating publications.

In spite of the unusually high vacancy rate, at both the international and local levels, during the biennium, the subregional headquarters accomplished 98 per cent of the 119 outputs earmarked for the period. Using vacant positions to carry out the assignments was not an easy task, given the complexity in recruiting qualified and experienced persons for short periods. Nevertheless, consultancy services and short-term replacement staff greatly aided the delivery of these outputs. All the same, 35 work months remained unused during the biennium, leaving 301 work months to complete the outputs. In addition to the unoccupied positions, the work of the subprogramme was severely affected by the rising cost of regional and subregional travel which limited the ability of staff to network and interact with colleagues of member countries. This also hampered the outreach programme carried out mainly through ad hoc expert group meetings.

In spite of these shortcomings, the period proved to be successful for the subprogramme as it engaged the attention of member countries in its work either through direct or indirect participation. Staff members completed 36 technical papers plus the reports of the meetings and workshops. A total of 523 persons, representing member countries, participated in the 18 intergovernmental and expert meetings convened by the secretariat in the 24-month period. In its effort to build technical capacity, the subprogramme convened 15 workshops/seminars which offered training for 446 persons.

Work related to the **economic development** thematic area focused on the fiscal impact of trade liberalization, studies on economic trends in the Caribbean, capital market development in the subregion, taxation, debt accumulation, and economic growth. An important output was the assistance provided to the Government of Guyana in the convening of the Rio Summit held in Guyana in February 2007, through the conduct of a number of studies and the convening of a meeting on 11 and 12 January 2007 in Port of Spain on the “*Treatment of asymmetries in the context of regional cooperation*”. This meeting addressed issues related to special and differential treatment of goods and services as well as the treatment of asymmetries in the context of regional cooperation. A report on social development in Latin America and the Caribbean was also prepared for the Summit and contributed crucially to resolutions adopted.

In the area of **knowledge and information management** the focus was on strengthening the capacity of CDCC countries in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This was achieved through the conduct of a seminar on ICT for senior regional policy makers and a meeting on Digital Content Management and Knowledge Sharing in the public sector. During this biennium, the secretariat in response to the demands of economies that are becoming increasingly knowledge based, shifted its information delivery focus from documentation using the techniques of knowledge management.

As part of activities in **environment and sustainable development**, the Caribbean subprogramme spearheaded discussions for the coordinated implementation of Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA) and the Mauritius Strategy, through the establishment of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as agreed by CDCC member governments in January 2006. Operationalization of the RCM was carried out in close partnership between ECLAC and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). A major event in this area was the convening of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the RCM during the latter part of 2007. ECLAC also undertook consultations for the preparation of a work programme for the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) which is newly established to oversee effective management of the Caribbean Sea. The work programme which addresses governance, technical and scientific research, institutional cooperation and effective management and conservation of the Caribbean Sea was presented at the fourth meeting of the Commission.

ECLAC received requests and conducted macro socio-economic assessments of the impact of Hurricane Dean in Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Belize. This support was provided by multi-disciplinary teams led by ECLAC in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). Comprehensive reports were prepared and presented to the governments for consideration. In addition, a regional workshop was convened by ECLAC in February 2007, to review existing tools and methodologies for use in disaster management and to develop strategic linkages for improving disaster risk in the Caribbean subregion. Eight workshops were also conducted in Belize, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos to train 184 persons in the use of the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology.

In collaboration with the Natural Resource and Energy Division, the Caribbean subregional headquarters provided support to the Government of Guyana in the implementation of an ECLAC proposal for the development of ethanol as an alternative source of energy. ECLAC has also provided advice to the Government of Montserrat on the potential for developing geothermal energy and is supporting the development of national energy policy frameworks in both of these countries.

In the area of water, an assessment was made of the capacity of the national water authorities to promote integrated water resources management and important presentations were made at a Caribbean regional meeting on this topic.

A major concern in the area of **statistics and social development** has been the need to address difficulties in data availability for analysis and policy-making. As such, a meeting of regional statisticians was convened in Port of Spain in June 2007 to promote the benefits of data sharing and address issues related to the ownership of data, as well as the establishment of a comprehensive database to support household surveys and other social sector data. Efforts are now directed at improving the availability and comparability of statistics produced in the Caribbean and the development of new variables for micro data. The absence of information directly affects the implementation of evidence-based policies. This action includes providing information on the benefits of data sharing and addressing those issues related to the ownership of the data. So far only Belize, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago have expressed their willingness to share their data.

In activities related to the implementation of **global commitments** emanating from international conferences and summits, support was provided for convening of the *Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, where important contributions were made to discussions on migration, aging, adolescent and youth development in the Caribbean. The meeting produced a *Social Development Framework* for the Caribbean to promote sustained social development in the Caribbean to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the subregion. Studies were also prepared on youth structure in Trinidad and Tobago, migration, and the impact of the 'brain-drain', issues related to the aged and on poverty, urban violence, and social cohesion.

Finally, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean embarked on strengthening partnerships to enhance the impact of its work and improve inter-agency collaboration in support of regional integration. In this respect, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was signed by Mr. Jose Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Mr. Compton Bourne, President of the CDB.

A tabular presentation of the programmatic commitments within the framework of the programme of work of the ECLAC system for the biennium 2006-2007 is shown in Tables 1 and 2, listed below. Further details on the activities carried out in the respective thematic areas follows the two tables. More information on meetings, seminars and workshops, publications and field projects are attached to this report as annexes.

Table 1. Expected accomplishments (results) and indicators of achievement

Objective: To achieve dynamic, sustainable and equitable economic and social development, together with improving the linkages among the countries of the Caribbean region and the global economy and consolidating its integration in order to enable the subregion to fulfil the goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration

<p>Expected accomplishment 1:</p> <p>a) Improved knowledge of member States in formulating and implementing social policies and programmes, integrating gender analysis at the formulation, implementation and evaluation phases</p>	<p>1.1 Indicator of achievement 1</p> <p>(a) (i) Number of public administrative staff trained in the use of the Social Statistics Database and the Social Vulnerability Index (VI) for formulating evidence-based social policy for Caribbean SIDS</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i> 2006-2007: 111</p> <p>(a) (ii) Increased number of policies and programmes using gender mainstreaming methodology formulated by member States in the subregion receiving technical cooperation services from ECLAC in terms of analytical inputs and policy advice</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i> 2006-2007: 32</p>
<p>Expected accomplishment 2:</p> <p>(b) Increased awareness of the new concepts of development and the new regional and global structures and their potential impact on the sustainable development process for the SIDS in the subregion</p>	<p>2.1 Indicator of achievement 2</p> <p>(b) Number of governmental policy changes influenced by analytical inputs and policy advice provided by ECLAC to Caribbean countries receiving technical cooperation services</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i> 2006-2007: 22</p>
<p>Expected accomplishment 3:</p> <p>(c) Strengthened technical capacities in the Caribbean countries for implementing the new trade-related commitments and for deriving benefit from new market-access opportunities in the context of integration schemes</p>	<p>3.1 Indicator of achievement 3</p> <p>c) Number of strategies to improve linkages with the global markets designed by beneficiaries of the policy advice and training activities of the subprogramme</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i> 2006-2007: 25</p>

Table 2 presents a snapshot of the performance of the Subregional Headquarters for the biennium under review.

Table 2: Status of implementation of the work programme for 2006-2007: outputs by category

<i>Category</i>	<i>Programmed</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Total Outputs</i>	<i>Postponed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Substantive servicing of meetings	19	2	21		21
Expert groups, rapporteurs, depository services	9	1	10	1	9
Recurrent publications	6	1	7		7
Non-recurrent publications	30	6	36	1	35
Other substantive activities	22	0	22		22
Advisory services ¹	10	0	10		10
Training courses, seminars and workshops	5	5	10		10
Field projects	0	3	3		3
Total outputs	101	22	119	2	117

¹ This refers to the number of areas in which advisory services were offered

IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES BY SUBJECT AREAS

Subject area 12.1: Macroeconomic policies and economic development

Work undertaken in this thematic area focused on the fiscal impact of trade liberalization, studies on economic trends in the Caribbean, capital market development in the subregion, taxation, debt accumulation, and economic growth. Completion of the assignments was severely hampered due to staff movements and retirements. Short-term staff were used to fulfil the obligations mandated under the programme of work.

1.1 Economic developments

In this period, two issues of the Economic Survey of Caribbean Countries examined the macroeconomic performance of selected countries of the CDCC for 2005 and 2006 and the outlook for 2007. The documents were aimed at providing policy makers with current information to aid planning and development and to assist in their trade negotiations. The first issue, LC/CAR/L.97, provided a regional overview and an analysis of the behaviour of oil prices and their effect on Caribbean economies and on the implications of the Cricket World Cup. The second issue, LC/CAR/L.138, provided an analysis on remittances, migration, and Caribbean development and commodity prices and natural resources dependency.

The publication of the survey provided valuable information for use in the preparation of the ECLAC flagship document, Economic Survey of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

1.2 Trade liberalization

An analysis of some key issues of the United States - Dominican Republic - Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), LC/CAR/L.124, presents arguments and assumptions underlying the benefits of regional integration agreements. The document examines the trade policy of Central America and the Dominican Republic, the main provisions of CAFTA and the potential effects of CAFTA on Central American countries and the Dominican Republic in terms of macroeconomic performance and the environment. The study attempts to extract implications and lessons for smaller economies.

1.3 Financial developments

(a) The subprogramme provided an insight into operations of capital markets in the subregion, LC/CAR/L.104. The study considered the expansion of the capital markets in the region, within the context of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) providing a critical analysis on how their enhanced development could ameliorate the financial bottleneck by improving the quantum and quality of finance to business enterprises. This is particularly so for specific types of investment which lead to the growth of exporting and import-competing firms that could raise value added, improve the quality of production and generate or save foreign exchange. Through these processes, these markets can therefore contribute to economic growth.

(b) The analysis of accumulation of debt servicing in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.106, highlights the interplay of the fiscal and external sector in generating debt, and consequences of debt accumulation on the real and financial sectors.

(c) The challenges to tax reform in the region is considered in document LC/CAR/L.94, taking into account the underlying rationale of the chosen reform based on current tax reform processes in select member States.

1.4 Meetings

Given the expansion of the Caribbean capital markets, it was considered necessary to examine the benefits of development banking to the Caribbean and to bring the attention of key stakeholders in the subregion to its usefulness.

In this regard, a meeting on Development Banking in the Caribbean: Towards a Regional Approach was convened in the Turks and Caicos, 23-24 November 2006 in collaboration with the CDB and the Turks and Caicos Invest. The meeting discussed the performance of development banks in selected Caribbean countries and considered the best practices and current issues with specific reference to international financial reporting standards; supervision and regulation; and credit rating. Presenters reviewed development banking from the global and regional perspectives, assessing current trends in training, management information systems and corporate governance and analysed options for financial diversification and risk management. Participants discussed the possibility of setting up networks and other initiatives that could contribute to promotion of a common approach to development banking in the Caribbean.

Subject area 12.2: Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation

Activities carried out under this thematic area focused on the building of partnerships and strengthening the integration process in the subregion. A major achievement during the biennium was the support provided to the Pro-tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group and the involvement in key aspects of its work.

2.1 Subregional integration

(a) During the period under review, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the twenty-first ministerial Session of the CDCC, 16 and 17 January 2006, which endorsed the programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium. A major result was the establishment of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) to oversee the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean subregion. The report of the session, LC/CAR/L.86, was presented to the thirty-first Session of ECLAC held in Montevideo, June 2006.

(b) The thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC was convened on 23 and 24 August 2007. Discussions centered on the implementation of the 2006-2007 programme of work and issues relevant to the member countries. Further discussions on the

work programme of the CSC and the operationalization of the RCM for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy Initiative (MSI). (Report of the meeting, LC/CAR/L.134.)

2.1.1 Integration issues

As part of its ongoing efforts to keep member States updated on development issues, the secretariat continues to hold briefing sessions with subregional representatives at the United Nations and in Washington; the ACS; CARICOM and OECS secretariats. Through its Director and other staff, CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations were addressed on three occasions on the activities of the secretariat and on issues which were related to deliberations taking place at the time.

2.1.2 Associate Member Countries (AMCs)

Particular attention continues to be placed on the significance of the AMCs to the development process in the Caribbean. In this regard, a special meeting of the AMCs was convened in Port of Spain, 23 August 2007, to review the current rules of procedure, structural arrangements and legislative bases of the Working Group of the AMCs in order to better position them to participate in programmes of the wider United Nations system including its specialized agencies. The meeting received a report on the work programme activities of the subregional headquarters and presented the way forward for the secretariat's work in further support of its AMCs. The documents identified the challenges and opportunities faced by the AMCs amid globalization and provided information on support provided by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to the AMCs during the 2006-2007 biennium. Another study, LC/CAR/L.152, acknowledges that there is need for additional information on the process for the participation of AMCs in the wider United Nations system and the possible benefits of potential assistance from the United Nations System as a whole. (Report of the meeting, LC/CAR/L.133)

2.1.3 Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

ECLAC continued to work closely with the ACS in the preparation of papers and the convening of meetings. As part of its commitment to the ACS, the secretariat provided support in the convening of the 19th Meeting of the Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations of the Association of Caribbean States held in Port of Spain in June 2006. Two presentations were made by the secretariat which represent the preliminary results of ongoing studies: (a) *Special and differential treatment in regional integration agreements in the greater Caribbean*; and (b) *The stylized facts of regional integration processes*.

2.1.4 Hemispheric integration

i) Rio Group

At the request of the Government of Guyana, a *Technical meeting of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group: Treatment of asymmetries in the context of Regional cooperation*, was convened in Port of Spain, 11 and 12 January 2007. The meeting was convened to prepare

the framework on issues pertaining to the treatment of asymmetries and to propose practical action-oriented recommendations to take to the Summit of the Rio Group to be held in Guyana, 28 February-3 March 2007. The secretariat's collaboration offered a new dimension to its work in widening the scope of interest and supporting activities leading up to the Rio Summit.

The following papers were prepared and presented to the technical meeting: (a) *Promoting economic Links between the integration schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean: A CARICOM perspective on selected issues*, LC/CAR/L.111; (b) *Special and differential treatment in CARICOM*, LC/CAR/L.109; (d) *The treatment of asymmetries: Review of the issues*, LC/CAR/L.110; (d) *Debt accumulation in the Caribbean, origin, consequences and strategy*; and (e) *Report on the treatment of asymmetries in the context of regional cooperation*, LC/CAR/L.112.

2.2 Trade

(a) In response to member countries' requests for information on the changing trade structure, the subregional headquarters prepared the *Study on the implications of trade liberalization for trade performance and competitiveness in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.136, which builds on the current debate on a number of issues and puzzles relating to trade liberalisation and trade outcomes and competitiveness. It provides a broad context to the rationale for trade liberalisation and competitiveness. The study focuses on the Caribbean experiences in terms of the process undertaken to deal with trade liberalisation. Issues include identification of the key drivers of competitiveness based on comparative advantage, structural and institutional requirements. It further evaluates the link between trade liberalization and trade performance, constraints and opportunities.

2.3 Information dissemination

The secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, *FOCUS*, which provides information on its ongoing work and increases awareness of current issues of interest to the Caribbean public. To date, six issues have been produced, including information on the establishment of the RCM, the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, social security, ageing and social protection. A special issue reviewed the activities in the area of ICT developments in the Caribbean.

The *ECLAC Issues Brief*, previously issued as the *External Briefing Notes*, which is produced twice a year, examines current economic issues and concisely highlights implications for the Caribbean subregion.

2.4 Technical assistance

During the biennium, the secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration and regional cooperation among member States, on request. In other instances, the secretariat assisted member States' representatives to the United Nations in their deliberations at meetings of the various committees of the United Nations by providing information, as requested.

Subject area 12.3: Statistics and information management for development

In response to the demands of economies that are becoming increasingly knowledge based, the secretariat shifted its information delivery focus from documentation using the techniques of knowledge management during this biennium. Also during this period, the full-time services of the Statistical Unit were restored.

3.1 Information management

This shift in the structure of its information delivery culminated in a name change and the CKMC was launched in November 2005. More recently the Caribbean Knowledge Management Portal was launched at a meeting of information specialists in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, primarily as a vehicle to disseminate the information products and services of the CKMC, which include a Caribbean Skills Bank Communities of Practice, the most advanced of these being in the area of disaster mitigation and risk assessment.

One of the important aspects of the work of the CKMC involves providing support to CDCC countries in the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action. The secretariat's approach has always been to link the implementation of an ICT strategy with the subregion's development goals. This is the context in which the ICT Policy Makers Seminar was convened in Barbados in September 2006 and, more recently, the meeting on Digital Content Management and the Workshop on Knowledge Sharing in the public sector was convened in St Vincent and the Grenadines, 15-16 May 2007.

In an effort to ensure wider circulation of its work, an entire issue of the Focus newsletter (July/December 2006) was devoted to a review of ICT in the Caribbean and ICT profiles of selected countries are made available through the ECLAC website.

3.1.1 Current Awareness Bulletin

(a) The secretariat continues to produce the bi-monthly publication *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)*. The bulletin provides national planners, policy makers, researchers and libraries with up-to-date information on regional, economic and social issues. It serves as an outreach information service in those areas of cooperation which CDCC member governments have identified as crucial for regional, economic and social development. The CAB includes a list of documents recently prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC Headquarters and other United Nations agencies as well as the most recent acquisitions of United Nations documents, arranged by subject.

(b) The bulletin is published bi-monthly in English and is distributed free of charge to approximately 100 persons from the private and public sectors in the Caribbean and selected institutions. The CAB is also made accessible through the website, www.eclacpos.org, with links to abstracts of some documents where available.

3.1.2 *Current Contents*

The secretariat also continues to produce the monthly newsletter *Current Contents*, which provides users with an insight into the contents of journals, and other publications recently received in the CKMC.

3.1.3 *Publications*

(a) Continuing to focus on what the transition to a Caribbean Information Society would entail in practical terms, the secretariat continued to do research in this area. The study entitled *The World Summit on the Information Society: Outcomes of the Tunis Phase*, LC/CAR/L.102, highlighted some of the outcomes of the Tunis phase of the WSIS.

(b) Following in the same vein, the report on the development of the Information Society in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.103, assesses the ICT policy and applications in e-government and State modernization in the following nine Caribbean countries: The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

(c) The ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Research 2000-2005, LC/CAR/L.85, is a compilation of research studies completed by the secretariat for the period 2000-2005.

3.1.4 *Meetings and seminars*

In pursuit of the goal of transforming the subregion into a knowledge society, the secretariat continued to organize meetings and seminars to further advance the work in the development of a public policy approach to the digital challenge in the Caribbean.

(a) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Barbados and the United Nations ICT Task Force, convened the ICT policy seminar in Barbados, 4-5 September 2006, for 54 high level officers in the public sector from the Caribbean. The meeting created an awareness among these ICT officials 'for development concepts and approaches, and to promote the formulation of inclusive ICT public policies and examines the linkages between ICT strategies and national development strategies.' Detailed information on the seminar can be obtained in the July-December 2006 issue of the FOCUS Newsletter, as well as in the meeting report LC/CAR/L.99.

(b) In collaboration with the Ministry of Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an Information Specialist Expert Meeting was held over the period 15-16 May 2007. The seminar explored the changing role of librarians and information specialists in the context of a Caribbean Information Society, particularly as this relates to managing digital content to facilitate better decision-making.

3.1.5 Training

The CKMC, as a part of its contribution to the development and strengthening of capacity among information providers and users in the subregion, has been working towards the setting up of a Caribbean Information Society. To this end, three training workshops were conducted.

This was followed by the convening of a Telecommunications Roundtable, May 2006, which brought together academics, practitioners, experts, and regulators for a panel discussion of current issues surrounding the telecommunications sector. Approximately 48 participants attended. (Report of the roundtable, LC/CAR/L.96)

3.2 Statistics

For the first half of the biennium, the secretariat was forced to function without a full-time statistician due to the lengthy recruitment process. However, this did not result in the termination of activities in this area as the secretariat continued to collect economic and some elements of social statistics to service the information needs of staff in the office and researchers in the Caribbean and beyond. The statistician assumed duties in December 2006.

3.2.1 Data sharing

It was against the backdrop of the difficulties which beset policy makers in making evidenced-based decisions that the subprogramme convened the “Meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel of Data-producing Government Agencies to discuss the Ownership and Sharing of Information”, 25-26 June 2007, in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting sought to enhance the information on data sharing and addressed those issues related to the ownership of the data. A background paper was prepared highlighting the benefits and modalities of data sharing using household surveys. A major decision taken at the meeting was the need to have an operational statistical data bank available to all member countries to assist in their analysis. However, few countries - Belize, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago - expressed their willingness to share their data, while most others insisted on formal arrangements to be entered into prior to the sharing of such information.

3.2.2 Statistical indicators

(a) Volumes XIX and XX of the *Selected Statistical Indicators* (Vol. XIX), [LC/CAR/L.115 and 154], provide a collection of current economic statistics. The data collected have been re-cast into a form that is amenable to relational database query. At present, most of the time series have been transformed to a database format, which will allow remote users to build the table they wish to compile. The Unit provided inputs for the preparation of the Annual Economic Survey of Caribbean Countries and other key publications prepared by ECLAC.

(b) The ninth volume of the Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts is a rich compendium of reference to all statistical publications currently produced and/or in circulation by all ECLAC/CDCC member countries, LC/CAR/L.141.

3.2.4 Projects

The secretariat has started the implementation of two projects:

(a) The project “Improving Caribbean Household Surveys” is being implemented with the aim of improving the comparability of social statistics produced in the Caribbean through household surveys and to ensure international standards of comparability. It is expected that the project would seek to build consensus among National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean on common data collection protocols, definitions and classifications for various social variables; strengthen the capacity of NSOs to produce harmonized household survey data sets for comparable analyses at the regional and international levels and new variables for their micro data sets; and improve electronic accessibility of systematized household micro level data sets via the Internet. Saint Lucia has been selected as the pilot country for the project.

(b) The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has been engaged in the execution of the project on “Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment”, Project 0607A. The lead agency for this United Nations Development Account (6th Tranche) Project is the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The project aims to improve data on informal sector and on informal employment for the promotion of evidence-based social policies at the national and interregional levels. It is expected that the project will raise awareness among national statistical offices and other relevant government agencies in participating countries of the importance of collecting and disseminating data on the informal sector and informal employment, and of compiling exhaustive estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The project would work towards improving technical capacity of national statistical systems in participating countries to collect, compile, analyze and disseminate data on informal sector and informal employment, in line with internationally agreed methodological standards.

In this regard, an advocacy workshop on the informal sector for high-level government officials and technical experts was convened in Saint Lucia, the pilot country, on 3 December 2007 to receive the draft survey instrument for collecting data on the informal sector and informal employment. Participants considered the data collection process and how this would be used for analysis and dissemination. Approximately 70 per cent of participants indicated that the workshop was informative and very beneficial in improving their knowledge and understanding of the informal sector and informal employment. Recommendations would be considered and as far as possible be incorporated into the final draft of the instrument.

3.2.5 Technical assistance

Technical assistance was provided mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics responded to several requests for support to member States and regional institutions.

Subject area 12.4: Sustainable development in the Caribbean

In this area of work, the secretariat continued to focus on issues related to the sustainable development of its member States.

4.1 World Summit on Sustainable Development

The subprogramme spearheaded discussions for the coordinated implementation of the SIDS POA and the Mauritius Strategy, through the establishment of the RCM as agreed by CDCC member governments in January 2006.

4.1.1 RCM

(a) In pursuit of a process to implement the MSI, the secretariat organized and convened a Technical meeting of the Core Group, 15-17 January 2006 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, to consider the establishment of an RCM for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean. The RCM was subsequently established at the twenty-first ministerial Session of the CDCC in January 2006.

(b) Decisions on the operationalization of the RCM were considered at a meeting of the Expanded Core Group to consider the Establishment of an Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean, convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 March 2006. This meeting set about to identify the guiding principles for the RCM.

(c) On 23 August 2007, at a special meeting on the RCM for the sustainable development of SIDS, member countries reviewed its principles and structure. They noted that there should be a certain degree of flexibility in its operationalization. The meeting recommended the development of a work programme for setting out the priorities for mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for SIDS into the RCM. The report of this meeting was presented to the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC on 24 August 2007.

4.1.1 Research studies

(a) In order to identify the challenges that SIDS might be encountering or anticipate that they might encounter in implementing the Mauritius Strategy for further implementation of the BPoA, in August 2006, ECLAC prepared and served a questionnaire to 23 CDCC member countries and 11 regional organizations that have placed sustainable development on their agendas. A document entitled *Challenges in implementation of the Mauritius strategy for further implementation of the Small Islands Developing States Programme of Action (MSI) in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.101, refers.

(b) In preparation for the 10-year review of the SIDS POA, Caribbean SIDS discussed their specific priorities to progress on the sustainable human development agenda. The

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean prepared a document entitled *Caribbean priorities in implementation of the small island developing states programme of action (SIDS/POA)*, LC/CAR/L.100. The document outlines that Caribbean SIDS require support from the international donor community in development and implementation of activities on issues such as the impacts of climate change on health and agriculture; capacity-building for tourism and renewable energy; clear delimitation of national boundaries in management of coastal and marine resources; development of indicators for waste management, food security, water and sanitation; and the conduct of vulnerability assessments of the impacts of natural disasters.

4.2 Human rights and sustainable development

ECLAC has commissioned a study on *Sustainable development from a human rights perspective and the challenges it represents for Caribbean SIDS*, LC/CAR/L.123. This signals the introduction of the concept of a rights-based approach to sustainable development. The study examines the extent to which the pursuit of sustainable development in the Caribbean SIDS is guided by human rights considerations; and more specifically, to what extent human rights principles, norms, and standards are being integrated and mainstreamed in development programmes and projects, following a rights-based approach to development.

4.3 Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC)

(a) The subject of the Caribbean Sea has engaged the interest of many delegations since 1997 and has been the subject of four General Assembly resolutions. The secretariat continued to address issues of interest to Caribbean SIDS. ECLAC, as the technical arm of the CSC, prepared a draft work programme to inform the work of the Commission, LC/CAR/L.121. This was done in consultation with member States and is up for discussion at the fourth meeting of the Commission. This work programme addresses both governance and technical scientific matters as well as project management and seeks to advise participating member States in adopting measures towards conservation of the Caribbean Sea. The proposed work programme would be discussed at the 11th Inter-sessional Meeting of the ACS.

(b) To consult with partners in preparation of the work programme of the CSC, the secretariat convened a brainstorming session in Trinidad and Tobago to obtain views suggestions and opinions on the modality of stakeholder consultations. ECLAC also met with technical colleagues to further the discussion on the format of the consultations. (Report, LC/CAR/ L.117)

(c) In preparation for the brainstorming session, held 14 March 2007, ECLAC researched and presented the work programmes of other Sea Commissions. Other initiatives such as the Caribbean Sea Assessment, the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project and the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project were presented at this meeting. The recognition of all these initiatives served to promote complementarity among them and the proposed work programme of the Commission and to avoid duplication.

4.4 Energy and the environment

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Division in Santiago, supported both Jamaica and Guyana in the conduct of studies into the potential for bio fuels as a source of energy. This would also address diversification of the sugar industry in light of the new trade agreements with the European Union (EU). The studies provided advice to the governments as to the feasibility of using sugar cane as well as rice and bagasse (waste) for generating energy. The net effect is positive in terms of foreign exchange savings and in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. ECLAC has been requested to be part of the panel that would evaluate proposals from private investors for the production of bio ethanol in Guyana, [Study on Bio fuels in Guyana, LC/CAR/R.86]. Planning for the diversification of the agricultural sectors has already started by the Government of Guyana

ECLAC has been offering advice to the Government of Montserrat on the feasibility of using geothermal energy. Again, ECLAC has been invited to evaluate proposals from a select number of geothermal development firms and investors. This would take place after the energy policy has been finalised.

The workshop on Public Policies for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: the case of Biofuels, which convened in Port of Spain, 12-14 November 2007, provided a forum for discussions on the feasibility of developing bio fuel policies in the region. Participants were trained in the use of the methodological guidelines of the document *Formulating Public Policies on Biofuels*, which describes the theoretical and practical application of a proposed methodology for formulating policies. At the close of the exercise, participants agreed to the establishment of a national real-life application tool for policy-making and public policy design in the area of bio fuel in 2008. This activity is part of the project “Modernization of the State, Productive Development and Sustainable use of Natural Resources”, which is being implemented by ECLAC jointly with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and is financed by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

4.5 Environmental information management

The secretariat continues its work in developing and maintaining a sustainable development database, which provides a substantive description of ongoing and planned SIDS-related projects and programmes in the Caribbean. In response to the debate on the aluminium smelting, it produced a brief on facts on the aluminium smelting industry. The main section focuses on a cost-benefit analysis of the industry by highlighting a few carefully referenced facts.

4.6 Disaster assessments and training workshops

The secretariat continued its programme of providing support to member States, upon request, in the preparation of assessments as a consequence of natural disasters. Policy advice was provided in developing a coordinated approach to disaster assessments in the Caribbean. This was addressed at the meeting convened by ECLAC; the UNDP Office for Barbados and the OECS; the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CDERA to review the disaster

assessment methodologies with a view to streamlining them to promote strengths and address weaknesses.

4.6.1 Disaster assessment

(a) The Meeting of Experts to consider Methodologies for Disaster Assessment: A regional approach, which convened in Port of Spain, 27 Feb-1 March 2007, was designed to bring together experts in the field of disaster risk reduction to review the existing tools and methodologies that are available for use in disaster mitigation. The meeting successfully examined different methodologies, discussing their merits for addressing disasters in the Caribbean and highlighting the need for collaboration in the optimal use of these methodologies; conducted a review of the assessment methodologies; produced an inventory of institutions that have developed and/or utilized one or several of the methodologies. It is expected that strategic linkages and applications for improving disaster risk in the Caribbean subregion will be developed within a developmental context. (Details of the meeting can be viewed in document LC/CAR/L.116).

(b) As a result of the severe flooding which submerged the most populous parts of Guyana, the Government of Guyana requested the services of ECLAC to conduct a full-scale assessment of the damages. The secretariat undertook a full assessment of the damages with funding provided by UNDP. The results of the exercise is provided in the document entitled *Guyana – The impact on sustainable livelihoods caused by the December 2005-February 2006 flooding*, LC/CAR/L.88.

(c) Suriname also experienced severe flooding to several parts of the hinterland and the secretariat responded, with support from UNDP, by conducting an extensive assessment of the damages during the period 2-11 November 2006. The findings are contained in the report *Suriname: The impact of the May 2006 floods on sustainable livelihoods*, LC/CAR/L.114.

(d) Following the severe damages caused by the passing of Hurricane Dean in 2007, ECLAC responded to requests from the Governments of Saint Lucia, Dominica, and Belize for a full-scale socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses. These assessments were undertaken with funding provided by UNDP. The results of the exercise are provided in the following documents:

- *Saint Lucia: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Dean*, LC/CAR/L.140;
- *Dominica: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Dean*, LC/CAR/L.153; and
- *Belize: Socio-economic assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Dean*, LC/CAR/L.153

4.6.2 Training workshops/seminars

The following training workshops were conducted for selected public and private sector officials with 115 persons trained:

- (a) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Belize, 10-12 January 2006;
- (b) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Guyana, 2-5 February 2006;
- (c) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Suriname, 30 August-4 September 2006.
- (d) Training Seminar of ECLAC Methodology for the Assessment of the Impact of Natural Disasters held in Turks and Caicos, 14-16 August 2007;
- (e) Training workshop for UNDP staff in Barbados and selected country partners, in the area of gender sensitive programming for environmental issues and natural disasters, 20-27 November 2007;
- (f) Regional Training workshop in the use of the ECLAC Methodology in assessing the impact of natural disasters - damage and loss assessment and the impact of disasters, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 December 2007.

4.7 Tourism

Given the volatility of the tourism sector in the subregion, the secretariat considered it important to examine how the public and private sector partnership arrangements work in the field of tourism taking into consideration the strategies and challenges for developing the sector. The findings of the study, LC/CAR/L.151, suggest that there is need for sensitization on the issues and for strengthening the building of linkages between tourism and other sectors, diversification away from tourism and the need to use public-private partnerships as a policy instrument to enhance tourism competitiveness.

4.8 Technical assistance

During the period under review, the secretariat continued to provide assistance, upon request, to member States in conducting studies and providing other types of support. Requests in the area of developing a programme in the tourism sector have been received from Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and the Grenadines and private sector organizations.

Subject area 12.5: Science and technology for development

The work related to the field of science and technology is based on research geared towards the development of programmes in science popularisation; policy considerations and institution building and strengthening. In addition, new technologies and their impact on development are all elements of the technical assistance programmes that are rendered to member and associate member States in their efforts at industrial, economic and human resource development, and the role that science and technology plays in these efforts.

5.1 Science and technology policies

(a) In an effort to foster the development of science and technology policies in the Caribbean, the secretariat undertook a *Study on the impact of the operation and management of agencies and institutions working in the field of science and technology in CDCC member countries*, LC/CAR/L.95, which reviews the operation and management of agencies working in science and technology in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Saint Lucia. It is expected that this study will provide an input into the work of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) in the development of a science and technology policy.

(b) The need for promoting the importance of science and technology in SIDS is clearly articulated in Chapter XI, paragraphs 57, 58, 61 and 62 of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI). As a consequence, the secretariat continues to examine the causes and consequences of low rates of specialisation in science and technology in the subregion, LC/CAR/L.147. The study revealed that although the number of students enrolled in higher degree programmes has increased in absolute terms, they are decreasing in relative terms. For instance, enrolment in agriculture has declined while enrolment rates in engineering, although increasing, were not significantly high. It also revealed a gender bias in enrolment with more males than females being enrolled in engineering while the opposite is apparent in agriculture and the sciences. As such, the key recommendations call for an increase in investment in science and technology, creating linkages between science and industry as well as with the international community, raising awareness of the value of science and technology at all levels of the education system to informing policy to stimulate the science – innovation interface so as to promote intellectual property rights.

5.2 Development of new technologies in the Caribbean

5.2.1 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

(a) The secretariat is fully aware of the concerns of the unsustainable use of water, its scarcity, pollution, monopoly and the lack of access to water-related public services of significant sectors of the population, which all illustrate the relevance of water governance. As such, ECLAC seeks to encourage a comprehensive and holistic approach to water resources management and, therefore, conducted an assessment of the capacity of the national water authorities to promote integrated water resources management within the context of the principles and techniques of IWRM, considering existing national profiles.

The study, LC/CAR/L.143, outlined an overview of the water profile for three countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada. It reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the main potable water supplier in each island, the mechanism for water allocation, watershed management, water resources/hydrological monitoring, and identified the type of water sources existent in each country. This information was assessed to determine the strategy needed for the implementation of IWRM.

The study concluded that there is no specific IWRM policy, strategy and plan for these three islands. The water resources management activities are being undertaken based on a sectoral approach; coordination is absent and collaboration on water resources issues is minimal. The study noted that presently, the focus on IWRM in the islands should be on IWRM implementation. A mechanism must be found to engage and educate the policy makers and political directorate so that momentum can be developed and “buy-in” obtained for the implementation of IWRM in a holistic manner before negative impacts, that could be avoided, occur.

A number of recommendations were proposed at the high-level technical meeting of Caribbean authorities responsible for water resources management. This meeting was convened in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership (GWP)-Caribbean and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), 2-3 Oct 2007, in St Kitts and Nevis. Among the recommendations were: a need for public outreach and advocacy; macroeconomic planning, methods and procedures for conflict resolution; need for capacity-building in legal frameworks; development of IWRM indicators; establishment of networks among regional institutions; establishment of mechanisms for increased stakeholder participation; establishment of mechanisms for case studies and sharing of experiences and formalization of processes for data and research sharing.

5.2.2 Agricultural indicators

(a) The secretariat, in collaboration with IICA, conducted a Workshop on Indicators for follow-up of the Agro 2015 Plan for the improvement of agricultural and rural life in the Summit of the Americas, LC/CAR/L.91

5.2.3 Caribbean Small and Medium -sized Enterprises (SMEs)

A draft research agenda was adopted at a workshop on Caribbean SMEs and trade liberalization convened in Barbados, 19 July 2006, to look at the challenges of clusters and network initiatives in the subregion. It is anticipated this review would set the platform for research and identification of a support role of regional business schools in the process of cluster formation and fostering collaboration among firms, researchers and learning institutions, as well as providing students with the possibility of doing internships with cluster organizations.

6 SUBJECT AREA 12.6: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

A major concern under this subject area has been the need to address difficulties in data availability for analysis and policy making. As such, activities carried out during the biennium included work in social development, poverty, issues related to accelerating gender equality, ageing, violence and youth, domestic violence, social vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS, inter and intraregional migration, and the provision of support to member States, upon request.

6.1 Caribbean development

The Caribbean Development Report is a new, referred journal by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The basic objective of this journal is to publish articles that provide a biennial assessment of the most salient aspects of socio-economic development in the Caribbean. It is intended that the highlighted issues would be used as a basis for the countries to respond collectively and collaboratively to specific development challenges. The framework of the Report can be found in ECLAC's mandate to monitor and report on the implementation of major United Nations global summits on social development and to support Caribbean governments in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. LC/CAR/L.155

6.2 Global conferences

The secretariat continues to provide substantive and operational support to member States in follow-up activities related to the global conferences with respect to social development

6.2.1 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) – WSSD+10

In follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) Plan of Action, the secretariat convened the High-level Ministerial Dialogue – Social Security and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, in Antigua and Barbuda, 14 and 15 June 2006, resulting in the development of a framework to promote sustained social development in the Caribbean to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the subregion. The Matrix/Action Plan is time-bound and outlines key actions required by partners to promote sustained social development in the Caribbean to advance the achievement of the Goals in the subregion. [Report of the meeting LC/CAR/L.92]

6.2.2 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +10)

The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 22–23 May 2007, provided an opportunity for member governments to make recommendations and contribute updated information on their respective countries in preparation of the final document to be presented at the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Meeting Report: LC/CAR/L.127). The focus of the presentations was on the

contribution of women to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Conference took place 6-10 August 2007 in Quito, Ecuador.

Support was provided to the special Inter-agency meeting on the Secretary General's Study on Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama, 6-7 April 2006. The secretariat presented a paper which provided an overview of actions to end violence against women in the Caribbean.

6.2.3 Millennium Development Goals

The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) of the Economic and Social Council took place in Barbados, 14 June 2007. It provided a platform for regional governments to highlight their own experiences in relation to efforts to achieve the Goals as well as to identify useful inputs which could inform local programming. It also offered information which would also be very useful as regional governments made their own preparations to ensure the fullest participation and representation of the regional issues at the AMR. The theme of the forum was "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development". The meeting was convened in collaboration with UNDP(Barbados), the OECS in partnership with the Government of Barbados. Meeting Report:LC/CAR/L.122.

6.2.4 International Conference on Population and Development

The Subregional Headquarters convened a High-Level Meeting on Ageing in Port of Spain, 30 October 2007, to prepare member countries for participation in the Second Regional Conference on Ageing, convened in Brazil in December 2007. Officials reviewed progress made in the implementation of action plans related to ageing, particularly in light of the fifth anniversary of the Madrid Summit on Ageing. A major product of the meeting was the formulation and adoption of a '*Caribbean Position on Ageing*'. It was anticipated that the outcome of this meeting will then be incorporated into the LAC regional contribution to the global review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action undertaken during the 46th session of the Commission for Social Development to be held in February 2008. Meeting Report: LC/CAR/L.142.

6.3 Population issues

6.3.1 Ageing

(a) Given the importance of the changing age structure to subregional development, an attempt was made to study the implications of the *Changing population age structure and their implications on socio-economic development in the Caribbean*, (LC/CAR/L.98). The study presents the main trends in demographic development of Caribbean populations over the past decades and elaborates on the critical challenges arising out of these demographic transformations with regard to social protection and social security in the subregion and presents an overview of initiatives governments are undertaking to address these issues. It includes an analysis of the situation of various vulnerable groups, with a focus on the elderly in the

Caribbean subregion. The conclusion was that there was need for a full assessment on how far Caribbean countries have advanced to address these changes with adequate policies and programmes.

(b) The findings of the study were deliberated upon by experts from various United Nations bodies, regional institutions, the University of the West Indies, and government departments at a meeting held in Port of Spain, 12-13 December 2006. They examined the interrelationships between population and socio-economic development in the Caribbean subregion including, Research and data collection: what we know and don't know? - Changing population dynamics and its impact on selected age-groups with a specific reference to persons over age 60; - Economic and social security and social protection under changing demographic dynamics.[Report of meeting LC/CAR/L.108]

(c) In response to the conclusions of the experts, a socio-demographic analysis of the census data (2000 census round) on ageing was completed for Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. This study is the first comprehensive attempt to analyze national census data with a specific view at the elderly population, their health, and well-being, inclusive of a discussion of their living arrangements and economic security. [LC/CAR/L.128: Population ageing in the Caribbean – A four-country study].

6.3.2 Migration

(a) The paper, *Migration in the Caribbean: Brain-drain – remittances – Diaspora*, LC/CAR/L.107, discusses the causes and consequences of the brain-drain in the Caribbean, with particular reference to the brain-drain in the health sector. The paper further elaborates on two possible approaches to cope with the losses and to enhance the benefit of those nationals living abroad. This paper was presented to an international conference organized by the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm, Sweden, with the aim of bringing Caribbean issues on migration to the attention of a wider audience.

(b) The Caribbean region is generally characterized by weak data collection, administration and sharing mechanisms. With reference to migration related data and documentation, very little seems to be in place to ensure sustainable monitoring of the in- and outflow of migrants to and from countries in the Caribbean. The study titled *Migration data collection, management and sharing in the Caribbean* [LC/CAR/L.139] has exposed the weak institutional capacities and noted that even if modern technology would be available it is not used in the most beneficial way. Also, outdated statistical laws and institutional hierarchies constitute a further block on the road to timely, quality and comprehensive data. To understand the situation, the study offers a brief overview of already existing mechanisms to exchange statistics and documentation on migration has been provided with the intention to offer feasible approaches that could be adjusted to the region's needs in this regard.

(c) The findings of both studies outlined above were presented to the joint ECLAC/IOM meeting of experts held in the Cayman Islands, 9 November 2007. Member countries discussed their experiences in the field of migration data collection, management and sharing procedures at the national and regional level aimed at improving migration management. An

overview of various mechanisms applied in other parts of the world that could serve as models to enhance technical capacities in this regard within the Caribbean were discussed. Delegates concluded that there was a need for further enhancement of such procedures. [LC/CAR/L.144]

6.3.3 Disabilities

As in many other parts of the developing world, little is known or written about disability in the Caribbean. In response the secretariat prepared the report *Disability in the Caribbean – A study of 4 countries – A socio-demographic analysis of the disabled*, which includes a literature review and an analysis of census data from four Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The census data revealed some important trends. Illness is the primary cause of disability in the Caribbean and it appears as though most of these diseases are lifestyle-related and, therefore, preventable. The elderly, especially women, have the highest rates of disability. The position of these women is especially precarious. [LC/CAR/L.134]

6.5 Crime, violence and poverty

(a) There is growing concern that the increasing incidence of violence affecting a number of Caribbean SIDS could derail the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and reduce development potential, through diversion of expenditure away from social development and poverty reduction, to national security. An additional concern is that increasing violence might threaten social cohesion, give rise to instability and slow down the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) processes.

(b) As a consequence, the secretariat has begun work on a study into the links between poverty, urban violence and social cohesion in selected Caribbean SIDS. The study will be carried out in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The study which will utilize the Participatory Urban Appraisal (PUA) Methodology developed by scholars such as Chambers and Moser in the mid-1990s will be discussed at a special meeting in April 2008.

6.6 Youth

(a) The secretariat continues to do research on a situational assessment and analysis of the adolescent and youth population in selected countries of the wider Caribbean. The first study, *Social outcome and characteristics of youth in Trinidad and Tobago*, LC/CAR/R.90, was prepared with consultancy support. This was supported by a *Report on the situation of youth in selected Caribbean Countries*. The report presents the preliminary findings of a joint regional study undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during the 2006 to 2007 biennium. The purpose of the project was to analyze the status of youth in a number of Caribbean and Latin American countries in terms of education, employment and sexual and reproductive health using available 2000 census data. From the assessment of the information it would be possible to identify the gaps and challenges faced by the target population and provide

policy recommendations for improving the conditions of the youth and adolescent populations. [LC/CAR/L.150]

- (b) This report was presented to the COSHOD meeting of CARICOM for discussion

6.7 Gender

(a) In recent times, attention has been drawn to the absence of valid information on the contribution of women to the economy and social protection especially in relation to unpaid work performed by women in the Caribbean. In response, the secretariat prepared a study aimed at bringing to the attention of the general public the situation as it stands in the Caribbean. LC/CAR/L.118.

(b) The paper on women's political participation and gender parity in decision-making at all levels in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.129, reviews various indicators of women's political participation and gender parity in decision-making in government and in the public and private sectors in the English-speaking Caribbean and in Cuba and the Netherlands Antilles.

(c) Under this thematic area, the secretariat prepared the research paper entitled *Nutrition, Gender and Poverty in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/L.105. This paper examines the linkages between gender, nutrition and poverty in the English-speaking Caribbean, building on data gathered on hunger and poverty in the Caribbean. This paper also seeks to inform policy makers on how gender issues should be taken into account in developing policies on hunger and nutrition. Gender refers to the social construction of relations between males and females.

(d) Taking into account that not enough work has been conducted on the impact on natural disasters on the household, the secretariat prepared the paper looking at the *Impact of natural disasters on households: lessons in disaster mitigation for reducing exposure to risk and vulnerability*. This research was carried out at the request of the Government of Jamaica and presented in Jamaica at Conference on 29-30 May 2006

6.7.1 Gender Indicators

(a) The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continues to support the inter-agency project being implemented by the Women and Development Unit in ECLAC, Santiago, since 2000 (with financial support from the Government of Italy, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)). This project was extended to the Caribbean for the construction of gender indicators that were comparable to those being developed in Latin America. Datasets for the construction of the indicators, where possible, were drawn from the CSSD.

(b) The secretariat at a special technical meeting on the status of gender indicators in the Caribbean developed guidelines to aid the construction and updating of a common set of gender indicators that would be comparable between Caribbean countries, and specific to the reality of the situation of women and men. The secretariat convened a meeting to disseminate the results of this project. The meeting recommended that the promotion of the use of gender

indicators for gender analysis and for policy monitoring to facilitate accountability to national and regional commitments. Meeting Report: LC/CAR/L.130

6.8 Newsletters

6.8.1 Gender Dialogue Newsletter

The secretariat publishes the newsletter *Gender Dialogue* in response to calls from participants at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Trinidad and Tobago in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women.

6.8.2 Population and Development Newsletter

The secretariat has recommenced the publication of the newsletter *Population and Development Newsletter* after a two-year absence. It will be made available electronically on the ECLAC/CDCC website. The secretariat has produced five issues of the newsletter that are available electronically and have been widely distributed to government institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia.

6.9 Technical assistance

During the period under review, the secretariat continued to provide assistance, upon request, to member States in conducting studies and providing other types of support.

(a) ECLAC/CDCC is collaborating with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the implementation of an interregional Development Account Project on ageing. Two Caribbean countries, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, are included in this project. This project provides technical assistance to CDCC member countries in the area of needs assessments and policy advice to address critical issues on ageing.

(b) Substantive technical support was provided to all government ministers and national machineries with responsibility for women's/gender affairs, to facilitate their participation in the on-line virtual forum and dialogue between ministers and heads of the machineries for the advancement of women during the period 29 January to 2 February 2007. The main aim of the online dialogue between ministers and heads of the machineries for the advancement of women was to define the main messages of the document entitled *The contribution of women to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which will serve as a basis for discussions at the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 6 to 9 August 2007. The online dialogue was moderated by the Chief of the Women and Development Unit, ECLAC, Santiago.

List of Publications

2006

- LC/CAR/L.82 Preliminary overview of Caribbean economies (11/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.83 Draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean: 2008-2009 biennium (5/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.84 Report on the implementation of the ECLAC work programme – Subregional activities for the Caribbean 2004-2005 biennium (12/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.84/Add.1 Report on the publications prepared during biennium 2004-2005 (12/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.84/Add.2 Report on the meetings convened during biennium 2004-2005 (12/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.84/Add.3 Report on the seminars and training workshops convened by ECLAC/CDCC (12/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.84/Add.4 Progress report on technical assistance rendered to member States and regional institutions – biennium 2004-2005 (12/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.85 ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Research 2000-2005 (13/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.86 Report of the twenty-first session of the CDCC (31/1/06)
- LC/CAR/L.87 Report of the Core Group to consider the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean (6/2/06)
- LC/CAR/L.88 Guyana – The impact on sustainable livelihoods caused by the December 2005-February 2006 flooding (22/2/06)
- LC/CAR/L.89 Report on the workshop on Damage and Loss Assessment and the impact of disasters in Belize (30/4)
- LC/CAR/L.90 Meeting of the expanded Core Group for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of Mauritius Strategy (1/5)
- LC/CAR/L.91 Report of the workshop on Indicators for follow-up of the Agro 2015 Plan for the improvement of agricultural and rural life in the Summit of the Americas (15/5)
- LC/CAR/L.92 Report of the high-level ministerial dialogue – Social Security and sustainable development in the Caribbean (25/7/06)

- LC/CAR/L.93 Report of the workshop on Caribbean small and medium-sized enterprises and trade liberalization: Challenges of clusters and network initiatives (28/8)
- LC/CAR/L. 94 Fiscal policy and tax reform in the Caribbean (18/9)
- LC/CAR/L.95 The operation and management of agencies and institutions working in the field of science and technology in selected CDCC member countries (29/9/06)
- LC/CAR/L.96 Report of the roundtable on telecommunications and the Knowledge Society (9/10/06)
- LC/CAR/L.97 Economic survey of the Caribbean 2006-2007 (10/10/06)
- LC/CAR/L.98 Changing population age structure and their implications on socio-economic development in the Caribbean (13/10/06)
- LC/CAR/L.99 Report of the Caribbean ICT Policy-makers Seminar (1/11/06)
- LC/CAR/L.100 Caribbean Priorities In Implementation Of The Small Island Developing States Programme Of Action (SIDS/POA) (23/10)
- LC/CAR/L.101 Challenges In Implementation Of The “Mauritius Strategy For Further Implementation Of The Small Islands Developing States Programme Of Action” (MSI) In The Caribbean (3/11/06)
- LC/CAR/L.102 The World Summit On The Information Society Outcomes Of The Tunis Phase (16/11/06)
- LC/CAR/L.103 Exploiting the potential of the Caribbean Information Society as an enabler of human development in the region (20/11/06)
- LC/CAR/L.104 Capital market development in the Caribbean within the context of the CSME (7/12/06)
- LC/CAR/L.105 Nutrition, gender and poverty in the Caribbean subregion (18/12/06)
- LC/CAR/L.106 Debt accumulation in the Caribbean: Origins, consequences and strategies (30/12/06)
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