PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

SUBPROGRAMME 13: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN
The countries of the Caribbean subregion continue to face a variety of development challenges, given their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and low levels of resilience. Their small, open, still undiversified economies, impacted by recession in major export markets, are still striving to return to sustainable economic growth following the global economic crisis. This has been especially true for most of the service-oriented economies in the subregion. Low growth, depressed domestic and international demand and a lack of robust investment in tourism and related service industries have brought high levels of unemployment, particularly among women and youth.

Countries of the subregion also face mounting public debt and severe fiscal challenges, with average debt-to-GDP ratios still in the unsustainable range. For a few countries, the ratios exceed 100% of GDP, posing serious challenges to financial system stability and limiting their access to credit. Such substantial debt burdens contribute to persistently high interest rates and restrain investment.

The high public debt and focus on fiscal adjustment has limited the capacity of Caribbean Governments to deliver the full range of social services. This has raised concerns about erosion of the social fabric, and the ability to meet the growing needs of vulnerable groups. The Caribbean remains the subregion with the second highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world, and the rise in lifestyle and non-communicable diseases has increasingly become an urgent health and development issue. The reduction of significant levels of poverty and inequality remains a major challenge for Caribbean countries.

The small island and coastal States of the Caribbean continue to be challenged with adapting to climate change and sea level rise, as well as the ever increasing risks of exposure to extreme weather events, which have increased in intensity. Related issues of energy and food security have gained prominence on the policy agenda, as the subregion seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on fossil fuel exploration and imports with development of biofuels and other alternative energy technologies.

Caribbean States will therefore need to shape a strategy that promotes growth, rekindles investment and builds resilience, with focus on debt reduction and fiscal management, while seeking to expand their capacity to meet the growing social and development needs of their people. Underlying such a strategy is the need for economic transformation, which implies moving away from economies based primarily on natural endowments to more knowledge-driven economies. This will require much more targeted investment in human capital and greater collaboration between the private and public sectors of the region to garner the requisite resources. This will also demand exploration of viable avenues for expansion of trade and investment within the wider Latin America, even as the subregion seeks to strengthen the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and invest in human capacity through skills and entrepreneurship training, particularly among youth. Attention will also have to be devoted to important demographic trends, the need to provide broader social protection services for the ageing Caribbean populations, the social and fiscal implications of employment drift to the informal sector, and strategies to benefit positively from migration by harnessing the skills and resources of the Caribbean diaspora. Policymakers have also reaffirmed commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, and attention to the needs of persons living with disabilities.
Efforts to respond effectively to emerging demographic trends and to address the challenges more concretely are hampered by the persistent lack of data. Policymakers acknowledge the need to strengthen infrastructure and expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly important issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons living with disabilities, and gender-based violence. Particular attention should be paid to the use of sex-disaggregated data. The use of information and communication technologies must necessarily assume greater importance as a tool for promoting more effective governance and public sector management, particularly in small multi-island States.

Subregional and national action will be framed by the significant global platforms which will guide and support policies to further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. Consistent with the post-2015 development agenda that is underpinned by the commitment to “leave no one behind”, work under the subprogramme will seek to support the efforts of Caribbean policymakers to advance patterns of sustainable growth and development that are both equitable and inclusive, people-centred and environmentally sustainable.

The proposed activities seek to pursue the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme and to achieve the expected accomplishments during the biennium. The progress achieved will be measured by the indicators described below.

Logical framework of the subprogramme:

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<th>Objective: To strengthen the sustainable development process in the Caribbean and enhance the subregion’s cooperation with Latin America.</th>
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<td><strong>Expected accomplishment of the secretariat</strong></td>
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<td>(1) Improved capacity of countries in the subregion to address economic, social and environmental development issues.</td>
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<td>(2) Improved institutional capacity in countries of the subregion to follow up on the major international agreements in the economic, social and environmental fields.</td>
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<td>(3) Enhanced subregional dialogue, cooperation and collaboration in the Caribbean to address economic, social and environmental development issues.</td>
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Strategy

The strategy is built on four pillars. First, implementation of the activities will occur within the context of coordination and collaboration with other divisions of ECLAC and the wider United Nations system. Second, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will, through alignment with the guidance provided by the Committee, and the identification of priority areas and development challenges, ensure continued relevance to the needs of the subregion. Third, within the context of internationally agreed development goals, the activities will facilitate the active engagement of Caribbean countries in the follow-up to global conferences, including those deriving from the post-2015 development agenda. Fourth, the response to the development needs of the countries served by the subprogramme will adopt a multidisciplinary approach including: (i) promoting financing for development, sound fiscal management and market diversification, within the context of assimilating Caribbean economies into the global economy; (ii) broadening the monitoring mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; (iii) facilitating wider application of ICT for development and knowledge management; (iv) enhancing the role of social development within the context of the broader sustainable development process; and (v) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries to support more effective evidence-based policymaking.

To this end, the subregional headquarters will undertake research and analysis of the emerging issues and challenges facing the Caribbean and work closely with Caribbean development partners, such as the CARICOM Secretariat and CARICOM-related institutions, the OECS Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the ACS Secretariat, to inform policymaking in Caribbean countries, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services. Ultimately, the visibility of the work and major achievements of the subregional headquarters will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme, including more active engagement of Caribbean countries.

External factors

The objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achievable based on the following assumptions:

(a) Confidence in the relationship between ECLAC and the key national stakeholders is maintained.

(b) Collaboration and cooperation are enhanced between regional and international organizations operating in the subregion, which are crucial to the overall success of the subprogramme.

List of activities

Subject area 13.1: Caribbean Development and Cooperation

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

   Intergovernmental meetings

   (i) One session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, including preparation of reports for its consideration (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).
(ii) One meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, including preparation of reports for its consideration (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

Ad hoc expert group meetings

One meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Parliamentary documents

(i) Reports on issues for consideration by the CDCC (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2)

(ii) Reports on issues for consideration by the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2)

3. Recurrent publications

One issue of the Caribbean Development Report (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

4. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

(i) ECLAC Focus in the Caribbean for 2016 (four issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) ECLAC Focus in the Caribbean for 2017 (four issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(iii) ECLAC Newsletters on economic, environmental, knowledge management, social and statistical development issues for 2016 (12 issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

(iv) ECLAC Newsletters on economic, environmental, knowledge management, social and statistical development issues for 2017 (12 issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

Subject area 13.2: Economic development and integration

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on innovative financing for sustainable development within the context of the challenges faced by middle-income countries in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).
(ii) A meeting on monitoring trade agreements and the progress of regional integration for the sustainable development of Caribbean economies within the context of the Mauritius Strategy (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) A meeting on the creative industry as a pillar for sustained growth and diversification of Caribbean economies (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) A meeting on trade policy reform to increase the competitiveness of the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Recurrent publications

(i) Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2016 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2017 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean 2016 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean 2017 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on innovative financing for sustainable development within the context of the challenges faced in middle-income countries in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study on monitoring trade agreements and the progress of regional integration for the sustainable development of Caribbean economies within the context of the Mauritius Strategy (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(iii) A study on the creative industry as a pillar for sustained growth and diversification of Caribbean economies (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) A study on trade policy reform to increase the competitiveness of the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

Policy brief on a selected area of economic development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and assistance to countries on macroeconomic policies and regional integration (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).
6. **Training courses, seminars and workshops**

   A workshop on the use of TradeCAN and MAGIC to monitoring trade agreements and trade performance (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

7. **Technical cooperation projects**

   During the biennium, it is expected that a project will be underway on strengthening the capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean countries to manage their public finances (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

8. **Intermediate activities**

   Contributions of inputs for (i) *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*; (ii) *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*; (iii) *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy*; and (iv) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

   The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

**Subject area 13.3: Knowledge management and ICT for development**

1. **Substantive servicing of meetings**

   **Ad hoc expert group meetings**

   A meeting on selected issues of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. **Non-recurrent publications**

   A study on selected issues of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. **Other substantive activities**

   **Technical materials**

   (i) Updating and maintenance of the Caribbean Knowledge Repository (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

   (ii) Updating and maintenance of the Knowledge Society Toolkit (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).
Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

(i) Policy brief on a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Catalogue of technical assistance available to support the development of information societies and knowledge economies in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. **Advisory services**

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and assistance to countries on ICT for development, information societies and knowledge economies (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. **Training courses, seminars and workshops**

Training on selected ICT for development and knowledge management issues in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 3).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

**Subject area 13.4: Social development**

1. **Substantive servicing of meetings**

   **Ad hoc expert group meetings**

   (i) A meeting on inclusive social protection in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

   (ii) A meeting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

   (iii) A meeting to examine selected issues on gender and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

   (iv) A subregional meeting to review the implementation of the San José Charter on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

2. **Recurrent publications**

   (i) A publication on selected sustainable development goals and their implementation in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

   (ii) A study to examine selected issues on gender and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).
3. **Non-recurrent publications**
   
   (i) A study on inclusive social protection in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).
   
   (ii) A study on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).
   
   (iii) A subregional review of the implementation of the San José Charter on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

4. **Other substantive activities**
   
   **Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits**
   
   Policy brief on a selected area of social development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. **Advisory services**
   
   Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and assistance to countries on gender equality, social and population development in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

6. **Intermediate activities**
   
   (i) Contribution to the text of the *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*.
   
   (ii) Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Division for Gender Affairs.
   
   The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

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**Subject area 13.5: Statistics**

1. **Substantive servicing of meetings**
   
   **Ad hoc expert group meetings**
   
   A meeting on planning for the 2020 round of censuses in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).

2. **Non-recurrent publications**
   
   A study on planning for the 2020 round of censuses in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 3).
3. **Other substantive activities**

   **Technical materials**

   Updating and maintenance of selected statistical indicators (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

   **Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits**

   Policy brief on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. **Advisory services**

   Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and assistance to countries in the area of statistics and statistical development in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. **Training courses, seminars and workshops**

   A training workshop on selected topics in statistics (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1, 2 and 3).

   The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

**Subject area 13.6: Sustainable development**

1. **Substantive servicing of meetings**

   **Ad hoc expert group meetings**

   (i) A meeting on qualitative and quantitative aspects of status of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States and of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

   (ii) A meeting on selected issues related to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

   (iii) A meeting on diversification of the tourism product in non-traditional sectors in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. **Non-recurrent publications**

   (i) A study on qualitative and quantitative aspects of status of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States and of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).
(ii) A study on selected issues related to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on diversification of the tourism product in non-traditional sectors in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. **Other substantive activities**

   **Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits**

   (i) Policy brief on a selected area of sustainable development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

   (ii) Preparation of public education material and information on issues highlighted in the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, focusing on energy, tourism, water and waste management (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

4. **Advisory services**

   Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and assistance to countries in the area of environmental development and disaster-preparedness and risk reduction (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. **Training courses, seminars and workshops**

   (i) A seminar on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

   (ii) A seminar on disaster risks and resilience-building in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

   (iii) A workshop on the use of the updated ECLAC Damage and Loss Assessment methodology (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

6. **Technical cooperation projects**

   During the biennium, it is expected that a project will be undertaken on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

   The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.
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65/177 Operational activities for development

65/185 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

65/214 Human rights and extreme poverty

65/216 Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

66/84 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions

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2011/216 Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

2012/5 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

2013/28 Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond

2013/29 Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

2013/43 Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

2002/1  Agreed conclusions on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

2009/28  The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

2009/29  Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

2011/5  The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/2011/L.29)

2011/6  Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2011/L.30)

2011/27  Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/2011/26)

2012/24  Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2012/L.8 and E/2012/SR.48)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

595(XXIX)  Brasilia resolution on globalization and development

598(XXX)  Implementation of participation of ECLAC associate member countries in the follow-up to United Nations world conferences and in the work of the Economic and Social Council

608(XXX)  Promotion of coordination in studies and activities concerning South America

611(XXX)  Cooperation among developing countries and regions

612(XXX)  San Juan resolution on productive development in open economies

620(XXXI)  South-South Cooperation

626(XXXI)  Montevideo resolutions on shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity

627(XXXI)  Admission of Japan as a Member State of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

628(XXXI)  Admission of the Turks and Caicos Islands as an Associate Member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

640(XXXII)  Admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

647(XXXIII)  South-South Cooperation

648(XXXIII)  Programme of Work of the Economic Commission for the 2012-2013 Biennium

654(XXXIII)  Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to Follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and Implementation of theOutcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related fields

684(XXXV)  Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2016-2017 biennium

685(XXXV)  Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

687(XXXV)  The regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda
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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

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Review of United Nations support for small island developing States

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Science and technology for development

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2012/L.22 and E/2012/SR.47)

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2013/L.24 and E/2013/SR.47)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

Strengthening sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Participation of ECLAC associate member countries in the follow-up to United Nations world conferences and in the work of the Economic and Social Council

International migration

Support for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Follow-up to the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to Follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and Implementation of the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related fields

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

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