

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



# **Report of the meeting on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes**



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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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## **REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON DECLARATION ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

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This document was prepared by Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, and Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, under the supervision of Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Unit Coordinator, all of whom are in the Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

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## **A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Twenty years after the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, Caribbean Member States remain committed to addressing youth development matters and implementing measures to promote the rights of young people. This has been demonstrated by the development of National Policies on Youth, the establishment of specific subregional youth frameworks and funding initiatives such as CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP), the Commonwealth's Programme of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), the launch of CARICOM's Champion for Youth Development Fund and the CDB's initiatives through the Human Resource Development (HRD) 2030 Strategy, the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovative Fund, and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF). Other good practices in the Caribbean subregion cover climate change and the environment; housing and land access for youth; HIV/AIDS and reduction of stigma; informal and non-formal education, lifelong learning, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) reforms, integration of information and communications technology (ICTs) in education; youth participation and engagement.

2. Key challenges still hinder the implementation of National Youth Policies and are common to most Caribbean countries. These include the absence of enabling frameworks to support inclusive and effective youth participation and representation, the lack of appropriate implementation and coordination mechanisms, inadequate funding for youth development, limited use of planning, monitoring and evaluation systems; limited engagement with hard to reach audiences who are most in need of support; limited coverage of priority areas such as hunger and poverty, girls and women, climate change and the environment, leisure, and intergenerational relationships.

3. Partnerships and inclusive dialogue are important in order to agree on key actions for change. Such partnerships and inclusive dialogue resulted in sixteen key recommendations intended to enhance youth participation and raise attention to the concerns of Caribbean youth in the sustainable development of the subregion.

## **B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **1. Place and date of the meeting**

4. The meeting on the implementation of the Lisbon declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes took place from 24 to 25 July 2018 as part of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development which was held in Georgetown, Guyana from 24 to 26 July 2018. The Forum was jointly convened by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and The Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with the Governments of Guyana and Suriname, and in close collaboration with regional youth organizations, including the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps (CYAs), the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and the University of the West Indies' Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT).

### **2. Attendance**

5. The Caribbean Forum was attended by representatives of 12 member countries and 3 associate member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)<sup>1</sup>, namely:

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<sup>1</sup> The CDCC Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago. The associate members: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UN DESA), and by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The following United Nations programmes and funds, and specialized agencies were also represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

7. The Commonwealth, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Organization of American States (OAS) are three intergovernmental organizations represented at the meeting.

8. Other organizations, including non-governmental, youth organizations and academic institutions represented, are: Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps (CYAs), Empowerment Dynamics Ltd. - Youth Policy and Social Policy Experts, Guyana Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC), Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA), I am a Girl Barbados, Ikemba - Strength of the People, National Commission for the Family (NCF) - Guyana, National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ), Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP), The MultiCare Youth Foundation, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Saint Lucia National Youth Council (SLNYC), University of Guyana (UG), The University of the West Indies (UWI), The University of the West Indies Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ), Youth Policy Labs.

### **3. Documentation**

9. The Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, prepared by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, served as the main background document for the meeting.

### **4. Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes +20: A Progress report on the Caribbean
3. Frameworks to support the implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean
4. Special session: Mobilizing youth to Advance the 2030 Agenda
5. Youth Policy Interventions and Programmes: A best practice exchange
6. New and emerging youth employment opportunities

7. Access to appropriate education and training
8. Youth political and civic participation
9. Recommendations for increased youth engagement in development frameworks: A proposal for action
10. Consideration and agreement of the recommendations of the meeting
11. Closure of the meeting

## **C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Opening of meeting**

10. The opening session was chaired by CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Guyana. The meeting was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat, who stressed the very successful partnership among a number of institutions, resulting in the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development. He noted that this important Forum was organised to take stock of progress towards the implementation of the commitments under the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, 20 years after its adoption in 1998, and the Montevideo Consensus, 5 years after its adoption. He highlighted the importance of the preparatory work and excellent studies prepared by ECLAC for this meeting, which demonstrate progress in the subregion since the Lisbon Declaration, in the development and implementation of Youth Policies which are rights-based, inclusive, and participatory and which promote accountability.

11. He noted the encouraging fact that 19 of the 20 member States and associate members of CARICOM have National Youth Policies, while recognizing that more work is needed in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress towards youth development goals and to ensure that policy decisions are based on evidence. He observed that more attention is needed to ensure that policies are gender sensitive and adequately funded so that they can be more impactful. He also highlighted results from the reviews of the Montevideo Consensus and Lisbon Declaration underscoring with important data, the alarming reality that a young person in the Caribbean Region is significantly more likely than an adult to be living in poverty, to be unemployed, and to be affected by crime, violence and abuse. Instabilities in the protective factors of family, school and community, make it even more difficult for vulnerable youth in marginalized circumstances to transition successfully to adulthood, especially in a global context where more education and training are required of youth to be competitive and employable. He underscored the need for decisive action at the highest level of Caribbean governments to mainstream youth development across all sectors, in budgeting and in national development planning, as well as the need to strengthen Departments of Youth Affairs and national and regional youth governance structures. He also referred to the need to devise a coordinated regional mechanism for more effective participation and engagement with youth on the many international development frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. The Minister of Social Cohesion of Guyana welcomed participants and spoke of his enthusiasm about topics such as access to appropriate education and learning; youth political and civic participation; intergenerational dialogues; sexual and reproductive health and gender equality that would be discussed at the Forum. He expressed a desire to see a focus on the rural youth in Caribbean society.



13. The Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of Suriname stated that effective youth participation is also about creating opportunities for young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes at all levels of the society. She mentioned that this will require political will and the financial commitment from the leadership of CARICOM. She declared her willingness to advance this proposal and to champion the conclusions and recommendations coming out of the meeting at the regional level. She also stated that she looked forward to the design of a Caribbean Youth Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim to support Member States and youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, the Government of Suriname proposed to CARICOM Heads of Government the establishment of a CARICOM Champion for Youth Development Fund to which Suriname contributed USD 50,000. She informed the participants that the fund contributed to the hosting of this important gathering and appealed to governments and institutions at the Forum to find appropriate ways to finance youth development in a sustained manner.

14. The Vice-President (Operations), Caribbean Development Bank, stated that the event presented an opportune moment to turn attention to the youth of the Caribbean, to examine and evaluate Youth Policies and Programmes in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the broader frameworks, platforms and agreements for youth in the subregion. She shared some highlights of investments made by CDB and work in youth development, and proposed opportunities for stakeholders and partners to collaborate towards unlocking the potential of Caribbean youth. She made reference to the major areas of concern for youth development in the subregion and highlighted education and training as a major priority for the Bank.

15. CDB has invested over USD 1 billion in the area of youth and now boasts a cadre of experienced, dedicated and committed education professionals who are making significant contributions at both the national and regional levels. Between 2004 and 2016, the Bank provided more than USD 200 million for regional and national education and training projects. Within recent times the Vice-President mentioned that the CD Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme has placed greater emphasis on technical and vocational education and training (TVET), non-formal education and life skills, focused on the 15-24 age range. In parallel, the Bank has also been building on its strong track record of supporting enterprise development and entrepreneurship, to help unlock the potential of Caribbean youth to contribute to the regional economy and find new opportunities in the orange economy. In 2017, CDB established the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovative Fund, to which an initial contribution of USD 2.6 million was made. The Fund was designed to develop the creative industries sector, and encourage innovation, job creation and the sustainability of enterprises across the region with a view to support the potential to kick-start new possibilities for youth in music, film, interactive media, animation and gaming, and fashion and design.

16. Another CDB initiative highlighted is the Bank's Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), the Bank's flagship programme for poverty reduction. BNTF is partnering with government entities, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the private sector to mobilise resources to assist at-risk youth to start and operate businesses. In conclusion, the Vice-President referred to the Bank's first Youth Policy and Operational Strategy, scheduled for rollout in 2019. This strategy aims to identify the role of CDB, along with its development partners, to mobilize and assign resources for more focused youth-development interventions, which will address the specific needs of the youth and provide them with the means to become part of the productive sector. She concluded with a call for partnership to be at the core of achieving real progress for youth. Bolstering systems to respond to youth unemployment; building youth capacity to succeed in an age of digital innovation; and scaling up entrepreneurship education are areas where collaboration and cooperation will be critical.

17. The Director, subregional office for the Caribbean, UNFPA, stated that without the engagement, commitment and passion of young people, countries will not achieve the priority actions defined in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development or the ambitious 2030 Agenda. She mentioned that engagement with young people is a priority for UNFPA. She acknowledged that young people are not a homogenous group, therefore, countries need tailored public policies that address the situation and reality of youth, whether they are rural, urban, indigenous, male, female, living with a disability, affected by drugs, conflict or other challenges. She highlighted the importance of partnership and inclusive dialogue in order to agree on actions for change. For this to happen, Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and all development actors need to enter a meaningful partnership with young people.

18. The Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, mentioned the essential message of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that commits leaders to “provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities”, and that calls on young men and women to serve as “critical agents of change”; to use the new Sustainable Development Goals as a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world”. She highlighted that the integration of youth into the Caribbean’s sustainable development processes is essential for the future wellbeing of Caribbean communities. Progress in achieving sustainable development with equity requires policies that address the needs of the most vulnerable groups, paying attention to those inequalities that impact youth. She concluded with a call for collective work, building synergies and ownership, using the Forum as an opportunity to foster greater inclusiveness by examining the ways in which all peoples, but especially the youth, could be included in the sustainable governance of Caribbean countries so that the systems that sustain inclusive and equitable growth may be enhanced for the benefit of all citizens.

19. The Chairperson, Caribbean Regional Youth Council, based his opening remarks on a joint statement from various youth organizations that participated in the Caribbean Youth Dialogue Sessions. The Youth Dialogue was a platform put in place by ECLAC and its partners, in preparation for the Forum, to provide a medium for more than 60 youth leaders and youth organizations across the Caribbean to share their perspectives. He indicated the difficulties to engage youth in a meaningful way and highlighted the challenges posed to rural youth and those living in remote areas, who are often excluded from development processes. He emphasized the importance of mobilizing youth organizations while strengthening partnerships and creating new ones in order to promote change, sustainable development and youth empowerment across the subregion. He stressed the following key areas of work for youth networks: contributing to the development and implementation of National Youth Policies that reflects the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, mainstreaming youth issues in national development plans, policies and programs, encouraging further development of research-based programs and data collection to support strategic action plans, inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized youth groups, and promoting the revision of education systems and increased training opportunities for youth.

## **2. The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes +20: A progress report on the Caribbean**

20. The panel was moderated by the Programme manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat, who informed the participants that the session would set the context for further discussions at the Forum, by reviewing the study that was done by ECLAC entitled “Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes”. The ECLAC report discussed the main issues that need to be addressed through youth policy development and implementation in the Caribbean subregion. The moderator congratulated ECLAC on an excellent and informative report as it gave a useful chronology of how youth

development policies are evolving into frameworks that are rights-based, inclusive, participatory, gender responsive, knowledge-based, evidenced-informed, fully resourced and accountable.

21. The Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC presented the report on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean. The report aimed to provide a comprehensive review of the state of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean, and a reflection on the social and developmental role of Youth Policies, particularly in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of providing recommendations to improve public policies and programmes for young people.

22. The ECLAC study looked at 29 Caribbean countries and found that most countries had already drafted or implemented a National Youth Policy. In most of the policies, the legal definition of youth is mostly aligned to the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) and The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), however, there have been several variations within the context of “youth” including infants and children.

23. The ECLAC study found a number of common challenges across a broad spectrum that impact the implementation of National Youth Policies in most countries. Others are country specific. Mostly these challenges relate to the absence of an enabling framework, coordinated supports, and adequate investment for youth development. Other challenges speak to limited action planning and monitoring and evaluation; limited implementation of programmes and actions; limited engagement with audiences most in need of support; limited focus on priority areas such as hunger and poverty, girls and women, climate change and the environment, leisure, intergenerational relationships; and inclusive youth participation and representation.

24. The ECLAC study also highlighted some positive work that included the work of youth in the Caribbean subregion. Some of these projects range from climate change and the environment (Dominica); housing and land access for youth (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands); HIV/AIDS and reducing stigma; to informal and non-formal education, lifelong learning, TVET reforms, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) integrated in education (the Bahamas, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia).

25. In conclusion, the Social Affairs Officer proposed some key recommendations for countries to consider. These include:

- Improve on coordination and collaboration by enhancing the synergies between the youth polices and the broader development polices and frameworks.
- Devise appropriate strategies and mechanisms for implementation that will build on the institutional capacity of youth development agencies and youth networks.
- Institute consistent and targeted funding and programming for youth development and advocacy priorities.
- Introduce measures to reinforce volunteerism, gender mainstreaming, climate change, and intergenerational partnerships.

26. The Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps, presented on the progress that the Caribbean made since the Lisbon Declaration. Several Caribbean countries have already established National Youth Policies and Programmes, however many of the Youth Policies are outdated. Furthermore, a number of Youth National Policies focused on participation, meaning the creation of structures that will facilitate the participation of young persons, but with no reference made to participation as a social inclusion process where youth are included in all phases of the decision-making processes. Most of the policies addressed a number of thematic areas including employment and entrepreneurship; sports, recreation, and culture; health (physical health and HIV/AIDS and more recently, mental health and emotional wellbeing); youth and crime/violence, as well as issues of drugs and substance abuse.

Montserrat was specially mentioned as one of the countries that inserted a provision on youth and religion in their policy.

27. The Dean emphasized that there is room for improvement in the Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean subregion as some of the challenges included lack of autonomy and resources in youth institutional frameworks as well as a lack of follow-up, monitoring and evaluation process of current National Youth Policies. Additionally, the role of youth and/or youth organizations is sometimes not clearly stated in the implementation of National Youth Policies and related programmes. There was limited information in most Youth Policies related to thematic areas on fostering intergenerational relations and on promoting gender equality. Concerning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, it was recognized that youth-led organizations in the subregion are not familiar with this new global framework and are therefore not making the linkages between their activities and projects and the 2030 Agenda. As such, it was recommended that there should be a youth development action plan tailored for the Caribbean Community which must help youth and youth workers focus on the SDGs and other global frameworks at subregional and national levels.

28. The Dean also made reference to the CYDAP 2017-2022 which provided a good example of an effective guide for Youth Policy implementation in the subregion. The objectives of the CYDAP focus on mainstreaming adolescent and youth development into multisectoral policy and programming arrangements within governments and institutions; fostering genuine participation of and partnership with young people in all aspects of national and regional development; and fostering adolescent and youth awareness and appreciation of Caribbean identity, culture and citizenship.

29. The Research Fellow, SALISES, UWI, Mona, in her discussion of the ECLAC study, focused on governance and institutional framework for implementation and monitoring of Youth Policies. Based on the research and analysis contained in the study, there has been some commendable progress in the Caribbean Region, with respect to the types of Youth Policies developed. There is at least an understanding of the importance of participatory, evidence-informed, results-oriented policy formulation processes. There has also been an increase in the profile of Youth Policies - though not sufficient - with evidence of effective national championing of Youth Policy. The study also highlighted some challenges reported by member countries in relation to implementation and monitoring and evaluation, which the presenter suggested to be priority for further discussions in the Forum.

30. The Research Fellow emphasized that if countries wish to advance towards positive development outcomes for young people, there is a need to view Youth Policies as more than a sum of activities. Youth Policies must be seen as a political statement of the national consensus around the desired role of young people in society; a commitment to investment in their development as an imperative for sustainability; and as a technical guidance to all government entities (as well as other stakeholders) on how to maximize that role. It is not a preventative measure but a catalyst for national development. When viewed in this way, Youth Policy directs policymakers to look at implementation and monitoring and evaluation differently. In closing, she stated that as the Caribbean's population age, as projected in the next two to three decades, there is a risk of losing commitment to Youth Policy, if its relevance is not established through properly coordinated and integrated implementation.

31. The Director of Youth Affairs in Barbados presented on the operational aspects of the national Youth Policy of Barbados in keeping with the goals of the Lisbon Declaration. Each thematic issue outlined in the Youth Policy had a set of goals and indicators that were used to measure progress of achievement. As such, a methodological evaluation based on a summative research method was utilized to measure the outcomes of projects and programmes that would have been provided for young people. Surveys were sent to both public and private stakeholders to determine the extent to which the goals and objectives of the policy were achieved. This process was not without its challenges as there

were missing data and, in some cases, inaccurate data. Therefore, the Director recommended that all stakeholders should have a standardized group of indicators to be utilized to monitor and evaluate achievement of youth policies.

32. Discussions during this first session focused on communication strategies for Youth Policies and standardization of the definition of youth. Participants mentioned the need to promote the use of a communication strategy to sensitize all youth groups in the wider society. Communication and engagement strategies will require both technical and financial capacities. National Youth Policies should be in appropriate languages and not only in formal technical language to allow for greater dissemination to young persons in the wider communities. The language of Youth Policies and related frameworks should be adjusted to target all young people in a manner that can relate to them. Participants highlighted the requirement for National Youth Policies to be translated into the different languages spoken in the country. In Guyana for example, there are several rural and indigenous communities where the first language is not English and therefore the youth policies should be translated to indigenous languages in order to be accessible to these indigenous groups. Efforts to standardize the definition of the age of youth across the Caribbean subregion were discussed, while also taking into consideration that each country has their own sociocultural perception of youth and adulthood.

### **3. Frameworks to support the implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean**

33. This session, which was moderated by the Director of the Department of Youth and Culture from Anguilla, focused on the main policy frameworks such as the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY), SDGs indicators for Youth, CYDAP, PAYE and The Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) for youth development in the Caribbean with a view to analyse opportunities for synergies and improved coordination

34. The Commonwealth representative discussed the main areas of youth work in the Commonwealth, as well the Commonwealth's Programme of Action for Youth Empowerment and the efforts to produce a Youth Development Index that may allow to measure progress in the area. The Programme Manager for the Commonwealth Secretariat described how the Commonwealth Secretariat has been working with Caribbean countries to develop evidence-based youth policies, within the framework of the SDGs, which empower young people. He also recognized that there are implementation gaps, and challenges and a need to develop strategies to address this huge implementation gap. He discussed the data challenge and the role that the Commonwealth Secretariat played in developing the youth development index, a tool for measuring youth development. He also discussed youth mainstreaming and how to bring a focus on youth engagement across sectors. The Commonwealth has produced a guide to youth mainstreaming in development planning. In addition, he related the experience of the Pacific Youth Strategy, which was recently redeveloped. The youth came up with a new strategy, and a much-needed regional framework, driven by national priorities and aiming for direct impacts on the lives of youth people, underpinned by some investment to bridge the implementation gap.

35. The UN DESA Focal Point on Youth presented on advancing the space for youth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Considered integrated, indivisible and universal in nature, the success of the SDGs will rely on how well youth development efforts are integrated into the policies, plans and actions to bring about their realization. Ninety SDG indicators were identified as being strongly related to youth development. Although age-disaggregation is encouraged for all SDG indicators, great efforts and resources are needed for national statistics and data systems to meet this ambition. As such, it is unlikely that such wide-ranging age disaggregated data will be collected in many countries for the foreseen future. Unfortunately, there is still little data worldwide about the

situation of specific youth populations, such as indigenous youth, young migrants and refugees, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth, and youth with disabilities.

36. Without robust and disaggregated data, policymakers are given only a partial view of the situation of youth, which in turn can lead to developing policies that inadvertently divert scarce resources from addressing the challenges faced by many youths. Given these limitations it is important that each country select and adapt their own set of national indicators, responding not only to global monitoring and reporting commitments but to national realities and priorities. From a youth development perspective, this could consist of adapting and using youth related indicators from the SDG global framework as well as indicators from complementary frameworks at the global, regional and national level, so that the indicators selected may address each country's specific youth development priorities. By working together at the regional level, Member States are able to pool resources, knowledge and capacity to enhance sustainable development efforts. Regional development frameworks, including indicator frameworks, offer enhanced opportunity to streamline national policy priorities and reporting on progress to meet the SDGs.

37. UN DESA Focal Point concluded by stating that it is clear that the 2030 Agenda relies heavily on existing and developing sources of data, information and means of implementation for its success, yet for all these tools to make an impact, greater efforts are needed at all levels to improve the capacities of those collecting and using data, including official sources of data, such as national statistical offices and institutions, and data and information driven and gathered by the private sector and civil society, including youth. When combined, these data constitute tools in a toolbox to better inform, measure and improve evidence-based Youth Policies.

38. The Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat, gave some insight into the CYDAP, which was established after a Meeting of the Heads of Government where there was a call to undertake a full-scale analysis of the challenges and opportunities for youth in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). The purpose of the CYDAP is to improve the quality and quantity of access and opportunities available to young people at school, in the community and as active participants in economic development at national and regional levels. Furthermore, the Action Plan is considered to be quite important in the CARICOM region as it promotes regional integration with a policy and plan for youth development. The vision statement of the CYDAP speaks to the promotion of a regional partnership agenda, an enabling environment for adolescent and youth wellbeing, empowerment, and participation in national and regional development. The enabling environment will produce secure, valued and empowered adolescents and youth to realize their full potential and contribute to a sustainable Caribbean Community.

39. The objectives of the CYDAP include: the creation of an appropriate institutional framework to facilitate the delivery of an integrated and mainstreamed agenda for adolescent and youth development; guide effective and efficient delivery of adolescent and youth development policy, programmes and services on the basis of evidence based approaches; the mainstreaming of adolescent and youth development into multisectoral policy and programming arrangements within government institutions; fostering genuine participation of and partnership with young people in all aspects of national and regional development; ensure that investments in adolescents and youth are appropriate to their life stages and circumstances; guide the development of a sustained regional research, information and knowledge management agenda on the situation of adolescents and youth; and foster adolescent and youth awareness and appreciation of Caribbean identity, culture and citizenship. Overall the CYDAP is a good tool to promote synergy and coordination in the Caribbean as it will promote integrated data collection for the purpose of monitoring and reporting as well as inter-agency collaboration on a regional scale.

40. The Social Analyst of the Caribbean Development Bank gave an overview of the Bank's Youth Study and Youth Policy and Operational Strategy for the Caribbean Region. Overall, the Bank's response to youth development has been focused in the areas of employment and entrepreneurship; education and training including work on technical and vocational education and training, ICTs, and non-formal education; citizen security including juvenile justice and early identification (and intervention) systems; youth engagement and data for decision-making. Based on this work, young people are now being seen to possess tremendous potential to serve as agents of social, environmental and economic transformation in the Caribbean subregion. Additionally, investments in youth development are now recognized as essential for the full exercise of rights.

41. Based on this context, the Youth Study and the Youth Policy and Operational Strategy is regarded as an evidence-based investment in youth which would have a direct correlation with improved and sustainable social and economic outcomes. The Youth Study and the Youth Policy and Operational Strategy will focus on a number of areas including policy and strategy, legislation, budgeting partnerships, culture, employment, social protection, migration, poverty, education, health, sports, ICTs, crime and violence and engagement in decision making. These areas will form the basis for the future work of the CDB to respond to development priorities as articulated within national, regional and global frameworks, with attention to key cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, energy security and regional cooperation and integration.

42. Discussions during this session focused on data and financing youth initiatives. The lack of disaggregated data poses an even greater barrier to Youth Policies improving the lives of marginalized and vulnerable youth. Unfortunately, there is still little data worldwide about the situation of specific youth populations, such as indigenous youth, young migrants and refugees, LGBT youth, and youth with disabilities. There was a call to find new and innovative ways of financing programmes for youth. It was acknowledged that youth departments could not be responsible for all programmes or activities directed towards youth, and it was suggested that financing for youth programmes should be streamlined throughout various ministries in the government. It was also recommended that partnerships at local and regional levels could be forged among institutions and groups that relate with youth, especially hard to reach youth. Discussions addressed the need to find innovative and culturally compatible ways of communicating policy with youth who could appear aloof and detached from their reality. The importance of reaching out to youth that were not traditionally targeted or are difficult to locate or influence was stressed so that they could take ownership of policy and programmes that impact them.

#### **4. Special session: Mobilizing youth to advance the 2030 Agenda**

43. This Special session was organised by youth representatives and moderated by the CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Belize and was aimed at highlighting the efforts made by young people to advance the implementation of the SDGs. As introductory remarks, she explained that there was a World Youth Conference held in Belize last year, where the Mahogany declaration was adopted, in which young people committed themselves to implement the 2030 Agenda. During this special session, the best videos of the video competition 'SDG in action' were displayed. This competition, organised jointly by ECLAC and youth organizations, aimed to help identify best practices in youth-led initiatives in the implementation of the SDGs in the subregion.

44. The SDG Youth Ambassador of Suriname presented the programme established in her country. The SDG youth programme is housed directly under the President of Suriname and is coordinated by the Ministry of Sport and Youth. The Programme aims to promote the 2030 Agenda at the national level, targeting the age group between 10 and 30 years old, with the creation of awareness raising campaigns. It includes one male and one female Youth Ambassadors and integrates 15 Youth Officers working on two major projects, on providing school packages for underprivileged families and also

on raising awareness on certain topics related to the SDGs using UN theme days, for instance on the importance of recycling with school children. She concluded by saying that poverty was not a choice and that it is possible to change the future and achieve common goals.

45. The Youth Advocate of Guyana and Amazon Basin highlighted good practices on including indigenous young people in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda is often not understood by persons on the ground, it is important to decipher how to connect what we want to achieve with what is already being done. Similarly, it was important to recognise that young people were not alone, and it is necessary to hear their stories and the different perspectives of different youth groups. That is why, in his work, he decided to record the stories of young and older indigenous persons and raise awareness on this new global agenda in their communities in order to simplify the message using their languages. The perspective of development might be different for indigenous peoples and their vision should also be included in national sustainable development processes.

46. The Policy analyst at the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission informed that Guyana's National Action Plan (NAP) was aligned to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 10-Year Strategy (2008 – 2018) to steer Guyana along a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) path as the country strives to achieve SDG 15 by 2030. He highlighted that achieving LDN will not only improve livelihood and contribute to food security in Guyana but also improve the country's gross domestic product and economic well-being relative to the people living in affected areas. Despite efforts made, the Policy Analyst mentioned that in Guyana, land degradation has been occurring from natural resource utilization and natural disasters in sporadic areas. The coastline is prone to erosion, along with saltwater intrusion and flooding, and losses of arable land due to floods and droughts. The UNCCD provides the global framework for addressing land degradation and sustainable land management issues in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Given the scope of this instrument, if used effectively, it could significantly contribute to the attainment of the objectives of poverty eradication (SDG 1 – No Poverty) and food security (SDG 2 – Zero Hunger) in line with the Convention's mandate.

47. He added that the results of the 2018 reporting process will be discussed during the Seventeenth Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC17), which will be held in January 2019 in Guyana for the first time. The hosting of CRIC17 in Guyana will also be the first of its kind of the UNCCD process in the English-speaking Caribbean. The hosting of CRIC17 also creates an opportunity for Latin American and Caribbean countries to effectively collaborate and highlight best practices as it relates to the implementation of the Convention. Youths will play a major role in the planning process. Projects of this nature can serve as a model for other SIDS as all countries strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world by 2030.

48. The Policy Analyst concluded by saying that the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) was currently collaborating with the Mangrove Restoration and Management Department of the National Agriculture Research & Extension Institute (NAREI) to plant mangrove seedlings on the Essequibo Coast at Walton Hall in observance of this year's World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) under the theme "Land has true value. Invest in it." Youth involvement will be captured through the participation of Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) and Anna Regina Multilateral High School in planting activities. He urged community-based organizations, civil society organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to create space for youth involvement as we all strive to draw attention to land issues and educate the public about effective methods of achieving LDN. Consumers can spend their money on organic products to avoid land degradation. Farmers can invest in smart agriculture that leads to higher yields despite a reduction in inputs like pesticides. Policymakers and land managers can support bioeconomy by investing in new technologies and processes.



49. The Youth representative of the Commonwealth Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago focused her presentation on SDG 16 and the role performed by Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN). She highlighted that crime and security was a serious issue for the subregion but focus is usually on reactionary measures. As a community it was important to change this approach by focusing on crime prevention as opposed to peace promotion. More must be done at national and regional level to develop peace that include young people. Change cannot be imposed from the outside but must be done from inside and must include young persons. She then explained the Juvenile Coach Project that was aimed at changing the narrative of punitive justice system to one that is more reformative. She concluded that young people are crucial to building sustainable, peaceful community.

50. The winner of the video competition, the President of the Jamaica Youth Theatre, portrayed work of the organization and presented on the initiative “Expose corruption, counteract corruption”. The organization is partnering with National Integrity Action to address corruption in the society through theatre reaching out to young people using creative forms of performance. She encouraged other youth to utilize theatre to reach out to young people in order to raise awareness on the SDGs. Theatre is a universal language that could be accessible to all youth.

51. The discussion was mainly focused on the interlinkages between all SDGs and the importance of using all of them in a cross-cutting manner. Another topical issue addressed was how to reach rural areas and indigenous population and also that audiovisual materials provide opportunities to have the voices of indigenous communities heard. In terms of juvenile justice system, it was clarified that the project in Trinidad and Tobago started with a Partnership with USAID, UNDP and the judiciary, after incidents of punitive punishments to young persons involved in minor crime. There were a series of training in the justice system and law enforcement officials on the new amended children and family law. In addition, the importance of cultural art forms in justice and peace processes was also discussed.

52. The special session ended with an activity raising awareness on the 17 SDGs.

### **5. Youth Policy Interventions and Programmes: A best practice exchange**

53. This session which was moderated by the Chief Youth Development Officer, Dominica, presented case studies to address the challenges of youth development, by providing success stories in addressing the multidimensional approach that is necessary to understand the conditions and prospects for social and political integration and the efforts made to coordinate different sectors responsible for youth development. The session also aimed to provide preliminary recommendations for discussion on intersectoral coordination.

54. The Executive Director of the MultiCare Youth Foundation presented on her organization’s Youth Upliftment through Employment (YUTE) Programme that serves unattached and at risk young people in 70 communities across Jamaica. The programme provides educational, technical and social skills training as well as mentorship sessions for job readiness and placement opportunities. Since its inception, the YUTE programme has reached 1616 beneficiaries, some of which have received skills training and been placed in jobs. The initiatives under the YUTE programme encompass, inter alia, SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 17. One of the major lessons learned during this programme was the value of programme monitoring and evaluation.

55. The Country Manager for the Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Programme of USAID provided the Forum participants with some insight into the programme. The CFYR Programme is based on an integrated social policy approach that targets those youth who are considered as most at-risk for violence and risky behaviour. However, even though the Programme has a specific crime and violence focus, given the interconnectivity of the issues affecting youth, other issues such as poverty, low education levels, unemployment, health, culture and gender norms were

also addressed. All the activities under the programme are data driven and data are disaggregated at the community level.

56. The Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs, presented some information on his institution and stated that the topic of youth usually gets shuffled around in different ministries with limited focus or priority and therefore makes coordination of projects and programmes targeting youth very slow and tedious. As such, the question would be how to institutionalize the implementation of Youth Policy. He provided different examples of governance structures for youth development and recommended that countries should build youth research expertise and work to empower young people in the process of developing and implementing Youth Policy and actions. This should be done by producing youth friendly versions of technical reports; workshops on indicators; use of instruments like youth delegate programmes of the United Nations and possibly explore the option of establishing a regional version of the programme.

57. The Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant spoke about the Phoenix Project in Trinidad and Tobago which sought to support at-risk and vulnerable youth. The main target group was that of juvenile offenders who are considered to be the most at risk youth population. This group is characterized by having little to no education or access to resources; a history of abuse and trauma; and weak or no family ties. As such, the Phoenix Project was piloted in Trinidad in 2016, which worked with 30 females from a juvenile institution. The project is an evidenced-based social intervention that is aimed at rehabilitating juvenile offenders, restoring their family relationships and improving the operations of juvenile institutions. Some of the activities of the project include dance therapy, drama therapy, etiquette and communications skills training.

58. Discussions were centered around the topic of duplication of efforts, and it was suggested that there was need for greater collaboration and sharing of information. Also, the engagement of NGOs and grassroots organizations may amplify impact as their programing reaches a wider community.

## **6. New and emerging youth employment opportunities**

59. The session was moderated by the National Project Coordinator, Child Labour, of the International Labour Organization, based in Trinidad and Tobago, and it was aimed at highlighting the opportunities for youth employment in new and emerging sectors, including the blue, green and orange (creative) economies. In fact, aiming to address the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment, ILO and UNESCO are spearheading an initiative, the Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE), which was launched in 2017. This is an online community of practice that aspires to put youth employment at the center. It is a knowledge sharing platform providing access to documents, with monthly webinars and future activities, that include an envisaged roll out of evidence-informed youth focus development projects. The National Project Coordinator gave a synopsis of the platform online registration, uploading of materials, participation in forums, and she encouraged youth to get in touch to decide what should be included.

60. Research Analysts at the Caribbean Development Bank presented on the importance of the blue economy for youth employment in the subregion. Their joint presentation highlighted the main key challenges at the regional and local levels. For instance, the macroeconomic concerns encompassed low economic growth, trade concentration, rising debt and declining reserves, poor sovereign debt ratings and the financial sector vulnerability and instability. In terms of productivity and competitiveness, the analysts stressed the fact that Caribbean countries are ranked low on the World Bank's ease of doing business index, due to major infrastructure gaps, weak governance, inefficient costly transport links, as well as high energy and electricity costs. Concerning human development, there is very high youth unemployment (with 1 in every 4 young people unemployed in the subregion), compounded by poor education outcomes, as well as high rates of crime and citizen insecurity. There

are also social data gaps in assessing existing policies and strategies. Finally, in terms of environmental aspects, there are high annual natural disaster costs, low insurance payouts, poor climate change adaptation tools and insufficient building codes.

61. Considering this scenario, the blue economy could be an important strategy for promoting resilient economies and societies. It will foster economic diversification and new emerging industries, including marine aquaculture, offshore wind energy, marine renewable energy, marine seabed mining, marine biotechnology and high-tech marine services, as well as marine transport or shipping. Therefore, the blue economy will bring many new opportunities for youth employment. In order to achieve this, some barriers need to be overcome. The education systems in the Caribbean do not sufficiently provide the knowledge and skills for the highly qualified technical positions in the blue economy. In addition, youth are often unaware of the broad range of career opportunities in coastal and ocean-based industries. Finally, there is a difficult environment for doing business in the subregion which is one of the factors stifling innovation and entrepreneurship.

62. They concluded their presentation by recommending that youth be engaged in the blue economy and be aware of building opportunities in this sector, for instance through internships and study tours. It is important to promote training in, certification for and access to maritime professions for young people, through initiatives such as the Blue Career Center of Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea. It was also suggested to form new ocean-based enterprises, with the development of maritime clusters, such as the European Sector Skills Alliances; to foster the development of a maritime technology sector and to assign priority to policies for job creation, for instance through public employment programmes, sectoral programmes and youth entrepreneurship interventions. The Caribbean Development Bank recommended the creation of a regional knowledge hub, to establish a regional agency for ocean management and governance, to develop a regional policy for economic sharing in this sector that will improve business environment and infrastructure and help in the advocacy and participatory development of the blue economy.

63. The Programme Manager of the Commonwealth Secretariat presented on the importance of developing a national youth entrepreneurship framework. He informed that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) agreed on the need to invest in a systems approach to support young people, including through skills building, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships, and better data to target interventions effectively. The Heads also affirmed that youth empowerment is critical in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations of the Commonwealth Charter.

64. For the Commonwealth, focusing on youth entrepreneurship is a pragmatic strategy to address spiralling youth unemployment. In fact, it was highlighted that youth entrepreneurship will continue to play a vital role in creating opportunities and livelihoods in the future, as it contributes to social development, by reducing poverty and fostering social inclusion. With this focus, The Commonwealth has a series of initiatives, including Commonwealth Credit initiative, Capacity Building and Training for Senior Government officials and Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs, as well as a Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship. The key priority areas for policy focus are: formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy, optimizing the regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurship and skills development, facilitating technology exchange and innovation; improving access to finance and promoting awareness and networking. He then reviewed the manner in which the Commonwealth is operationalizing these initiatives and additional steps taken, such as the development of more partnerships for resources and delivery, as well as research on topics such as the blue and green economies, creative industries, among others.

65. The Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO) Lead Facilitator presented the initiative. It is a Regional Youth Entrepreneurship program that targets marginalized youth, for the

purpose of creating self-employment, youth empowerment; renewed hope and youth engagement. He explained that CARICOM Heads of Government established youth entrepreneurship development as a regional priority for countering youth unemployment, mitigating drug abuse, crime and violence and fostering economic resilience. CEBO is being implemented in several countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

66. He then gave an overview of the CEBO model, which is based on partnership meetings; Regional and national CEBO training of trainers; National community-based workshops; Business development workshops; and CEBO bank. As part of the Regional follow up to the CEBO initiatives, Business Development workshops were introduced and Graduates of the CEBO Community Based Workshop were assisted and mentored in the development of their own Bankable Business Plans. The success of this initiative was mainly due to: strong support and commitment from the Ministries of Youth and from the CARICOM Secretariat and good coordination with the partners in planning the workshop; a strong team of dynamic facilitators; carefully selected participants who are interested and committed; and the support from national partners and development partners (Youth organizations, Development Banks, small business agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Government of Japan, USAID and UNDP Youth Innovation Project, and the Government of Spain).

67. In order to move forward, he recommended that a stronger partnership be established at the national level, with youth and Education Ministries, development banks, small business support organizations, training institutions, chambers of commerce and youth organizations; to allocate funding for CEBO in national budgets and to provide continued support for promising CEBO graduates. This support should include: mentoring, internships, incubators, business plan development, business training; to improve access to start-up capital or equipment and to increase publicity, with documentary, magazine or on-line publication with profiles of successful CEBO participants, among others.

68. The Deputy Programme Manager on Culture at CARICOM Secretariat focused her presentation on the creative industries and the opportunities of this sector for youth employment. There has been increasing global recognition of the role that culture plays in sustainable development through both direct means, such as cultural and creative industries, as well as those that are not immediately monetized, such as promotion of social inclusiveness, equity and resilience. She provided some estimates of the value of creative industries. She mentioned that this sector employed more persons in 15-29 age group than any other sector. In the Caribbean, this sector is increasing in contribution to GDP in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

69. According to the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD), youth are the backbone of the creative industries in CARICOM, both as consumers and producers. In addition, youth under 30 years constitutes 60 percent of the Region's population. A strategy that combines the cultural and sporting assets with the Region's innovative youthful human resource and with new technologies, would open up opportunities for a new and sustainable development pathway that leverages the Community's strengths. There is a draft Regional Development Strategy for the Cultural Industries in CARICOM (2012). The strategy sets among its objectives, growing the creative economy by building more globally competitive cultural industries as the foundation for increased employment in the sector. It advocates for better management of the sector to relocate more of the value chain back to the Region. As part of the Strategy a Regional Exemptions Regime for the Culture Sector was developed. An important development with respect to a regional financing mechanism was the establishment of a Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund managed by the Caribbean Development Bank.

70. The diverse employment opportunities in the creative industries were highlighted, in particular in the tourism industry, which is considered one of the most dynamic economic activities and an engine for sustainable development in the region. Diversification of the tourism products is, in this context, considered as a shift away from mass tourism and focused on the development of niche markets like cultural tourism. Festival tourism, as a subcomponent of cultural tourism, has shown a potential area for significant growth as many tourist organizations have recognized the interest in the Caribbean popular music and other entertainment. She illustrated this with the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (CARIFESTA), which has been identified as a potential vehicle for stimulating festival tourism in the region. This festival has been staged 13 times in 8 countries, since 1972 in Guyana, and has made a significant contribution to the development of regional identity. The next edition, CARIFESTA XIV, is scheduled to be staged in Trinidad and Tobago from 16 to 25 August 2019.

71. The Deputy Programme Manager concluded her presentation by making some recommendations. She emphasized the need for a shift in the perception of culture and appreciation for the contribution that culture and the creative industries can make to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Region. In addition, it is important to create the enabling environment for the development of the cultural industries and to foster closer collaboration between agencies responsible for youth and culture, as well as with other key agencies in trade, finance, education, environment, etc. In addition, there are 10 skills that youth will need for work in the orange economy: Solution of complex problems; critical thinking; creativity; personnel management; coordination; emotional intelligence; judgement and decision-making, in particular ethical decision-making; service orientation; negotiation; and cognitive flexibility.

72. The discussions that followed focused on the wrong perception that jobs associated with the blue economy were low paying and the way to change this perception. In fact, the blue economy and the maritime sector involve highly skilled technological jobs, therefore the notion that jobs in the blue economy are low paying is a misconception. Moreover, in order to promote the blue economy, it is important to promote research as a first step, engaging with policymakers. The Caribbean Development Bank informed the meeting that they are conducting research on financing options for the blue economy, an aspect which may help correct misconceptions about the sector. Another topic discussed was the model used for the CEBO Bank. It was clarified that this model is based on the participation of financial based representatives/experts and facilitators. Finally, discussions were held on how to increase the participation of youth led organizations, in particular rural ones, in events, such as the CARIFESTA. It was highlighted that Culture Directors in Ministries are focal points for information and dissemination within countries. Regional Cultural Committees are responsible for requesting youth participation in delegations for CARIFESTA.

## **7. Access to appropriate education and training**

73. This panel was moderated by the Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda. Discussions were focused on the challenges that hindered access to quality, relevant and appropriate education and training, while underscoring the linkages with youth employment through skills development, technology, vocational education and training opportunities.

74. The Chief, Labour and Employment Section, OAS, gave a presentation on access to quality education in the Caribbean. She stated that 65 per cent of children that are currently in primary school will work in jobs that currently do not exist. This fact shows that there is the need to review, modify and strengthen training and education systems. Even though the Caribbean has made some advancement in access to education, the system has not built on existing skills that would prepare students for the workforce. She suggested ways to break the poverty cycle, including improving the quality of education; facilitating lifelong learning by having online formats for education modules; improving on leadership and communication skills; promoting and facilitating work experience

including career guidance, labour information systems, and promoting more internship and apprenticeship programmes to ensure work experience.

75. The Caribbean and the Americas Representative of the Commonwealth Youth Council presented on access to education. Access should be seen as two dimensional. This includes the opportunity to be in an educational institution as well as the facilitation to acquire the skills, resources and capacity to process and apply the knowledge and experience gained. Students who have mental, emotional and physical challenges may have additional barriers to access education and gain from the system. It is important to ensure that skills and training development are not separated from education. Skills should be integrated into the education curriculum and must be tailored to fit the needs of society.

76. The Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname, presented on UNICEF youth agenda that aims to prepare young people for a world that is rapidly evolving, where education and skills can mean the difference between employment and unemployment, between prosperity and poverty, and between hope and despair. To meet this responsibility, UNICEF is building a partnership dedicated to supporting young people in the second decade of life - a young people's agenda focused on every young person being in school, learning, training or employment by 2030, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, including girls, the poorest, those with disabilities, young people on the move, and in situations of armed conflict.

77. He outlined the goals and objectives of the young people's agenda towards meeting the responsibilities for young people. The first area focuses on secondary-age education whereby more adolescents should be in formal secondary or non-formal alternative learning pathways alongside continuous improvements in the quality of learning. This includes starting with the most disadvantaged, such as adolescents on the move and in situations of conflict, adolescents with disabilities, and the poorest. There is also a focus on skills development and training. Adolescents and young people should have access to opportunities to develop skills for learning, personal empowerment, employability and active citizenship. This includes support for the transition to work, such as through apprenticeships and internships, as well as skills for the future of work and technology, skills for a green economy and sustainability, and skills that promote leadership, resilience and tolerance among young people. The third focus area is on empowerment for girls. Young people should be given opportunities to civically engage, including digitally, to voice their opinions and views in areas that affect them and their communities, including issues of gender equality, addressing climate change and promoting a more sustainable world. Barriers, including child marriage, violence and exploitation should also be addressed to ensure meaningful engagement of adolescents and young people.

78. UNICEF is in a key position to play a leading role in the advancement of the young people's agenda as the organization can provide solutions by harnessing its role as a global moral authority and voice for the needs of children. UNICEF also has a strong field presence, reliable partnerships and high-quality research and data, which in combination can create scalable pathways forward. Additionally, the issues on youth require a partnership of a diversity of actors (governments, corporations and communities) to drive genuine changes and UNICEF is well-positioned to perform as a convener, partner and sometimes broker for solutions across public, private and civil society.

79. The Deputy Programme Manager for Education in the CARICOM Secretariat gave a presentation on positioning human resource development as central to Caribbean development through the Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategy 2030. This CARICOM HRD strategy is intended to address systemic deficiencies and inadequacies by promoting three interconnected sectors (basic education, lifelong learning and tertiary education sectors) within a single unified HRD system. The system, receiving support from an efficient enabling environment, will ultimately impact all people throughout the Caribbean Region through several strategies or operational processes that altogether

focus on four main outcomes or imperatives which deal with access and participation, equity, quality and relevance.

80. The discussion recognized the need for a practical and pragmatic approach to ensuring that young people are consulted on matters regarding their own education. It was suggested that the psychosocial state of students be measured to get an appreciation of their educational needs that would be translated into an education package for the ultimate benefit of the young people. The CARICOM Community confirmed that the member States are in fact moving towards mandating the incorporation of screening and mandatory referrals into the HRD Strategy. Soft skills were viewed as just as important as the technical and academic training and it was recommended that it be taught and inculcated at the earliest stage of education. There were discussions on how to resolve the conundrum of youth having graduated with technical and academic training but with no work experience and as a consequence are excluded from the job market. It was recommended that youth take more responsibility for their training and explore the option of volunteerism.

### **8. Youth political and civic participation**

81. The Panel was moderated by the Parliamentary Secretary of Montserrat and focused on the strategies and approaches to ensure active youth participation in political and socioeconomic development processes at community, national and regional levels. The representative of Montserrat began by defining who a politician was and how to motivate new young leaders to be involved in politics.

82. The member of the UNFPA Youth Advisory Group of Suriname started her presentation by requesting participants to stand up in support of ending all forms of violence against women and girls in order to leave no one behind. She highlighted that there were two avenues through which young persons can participate: one was through political parties, and other movements and the other way was through non-governmental organizations. Recently in Suriname young persons have started two new movements. She explained the different initiatives existing in Suriname aimed at promoting civic participation and engagement of youth from the University in Suriname and from the Ministry responsible for Youth.

83. The interim PRO of Saint Lucia National Youth Council highlighted that developing a culture of youth political and civic participation goes beyond encouraging young persons to exercise their voting right. She asked participants if their Youth Policies were acts of parliament and stressed the importance of giving priority to young persons in the house or parliament, with better budget allocations, and the opportunity to participate in parliamentary debates outside of youth parliament, among others. She explained that there were a few organizations in Saint Lucia that were not politically affiliated, but that assist in the grooming of young people to assume leadership positions, such as the Department of Youth Development and Sports, the Saint Lucia National Youth Council, and the District Youth and Sports Councils.

84. The Interim PRO of Saint Lucia National Youth Council focused on key factors that need to be addressed in order to encourage youth political and civic participation. One of them is to foster political participation by helping young persons understand the governance system and understand that it goes beyond party and all the concerns involving the political systems. In fact, the current political approach does not appeal to young persons and there is a need to use more creative and unconventional methods to reach out to this audience. She mentioned good examples from Saint Lucia, for instance training on youth leadership and governance offered by the Saint Lucia National Youth Council, the District Youth and Sports Councils and the Youth Ambassadors Network.

85. It was also strongly recommended to encourage youth participation on all government and non-governmental organization board of directors, as all issues are youth issues. In addition, it is essential to provide early opportunities for young persons to be part of active youth movement to foster youth development, for instance youth organizations, Youth Parliament, Student Councils, School Clubs, Political Youth Arms, among others. Furthermore, it is crucial to improve knowledge on governance structures and political frameworks in order to facilitate learning about the government system. In this process, she suggested to develop platforms that assist in allowing young persons to speak and give input on national issues, policies, legislation and political debates. She concluded by saying that in almost every forum it is mentioned that youth are the future leaders but the role of young political leaders is not often mentioned and they are those who take the time to groom and create young political leaders, young men and women who will sit and carry the youth agenda comfortably in the house of parliament and create a generation of well-informed voters and political activists.

86. The CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Guyana noted that, unfortunately, the Youth Policy in Guyana, was not available for scrutiny and perusal of the general public. He highlighted that in a society, people belong to many groups. These may include but are not necessarily limited to the family, school, religion, region, town, social group and political party. A belief in working for a common goal and participating in the civic engagement activities is what drives individuals to achieve effective and positive results. As Caribbean youth, participation can take many forms including: voting in elections; debating issues and advocating for rights; sharing ideas with others for positive social change; attending community meeting and other public events; joining public or private voluntary organizations and associations; presenting concerns to public leaders and expressing opinions on same, among others. Participation in social activities was therefore an important element of a successful and prosperous society. A failure of citizens, especially youth, to actively take part in the social life of the country makes it easy for leaders to ignore the issues that affect them.

87. The Programme Specialist of UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean presented the organization's Strategy on Youth. There are three axes: (i) Policy formulation and review with the participation of youth; (ii) Capacity development for the transition to adulthood; and (iii) Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation. The purpose was to enable spaces for young people to dialogue with major stakeholders who are at the forefront of decision making. In addition, it was aimed to endorse work of youth organization by connecting them to partners; to encourage policymakers to engage with youth projects; and to connect young people to the media to raise youth issues. She gave several examples of civic participation, for instance through the Caribbean Sport Compass, which was a regional youth-led "task force" supporting youth-led grassroots programmes dedicated to youth empowerment; as well as through the Caribbean Youth Network on Climate Change. She concluded by reiterating the support of UNESCO in strengthening youth participation in the subregion.

88. The Assistant Secretary-General of Human and Social Development of CARICOM Secretariat congratulated Suriname for exemplifying what it promoted in terms of participation of young persons politically and civically. He charged the young persons present to live what they preach, they cannot wait to be offered the opportunity to participate as these opportunities must be sought. He also charged them to encourage other young persons to exercise their civil right of suffrage, to get involved in civic activities and to prepare themselves both academically and intellectually, demonstrate reliability and responsible nature. He also alerted them to be careful to interpret social and community stereotypes while encouraging youth to prepare themselves emotionally. All of this would ensure that young people are well poised to claim a place at the table.

89. The moderator of the panel, the Parliamentary Secretary of Montserrat, highlighted the importance of simplifying the message and policies, by for instance suggesting that Youth Policies



should be presented as an action-oriented one-page document that focus on specific areas in order to make it more accessible and youth-friendly.

90. The discussions were focused on how the UNESCO strategy was being monitored and evaluated. The representative of UNESCO informed that the format and recommendations emanating from the Youth Forum have been changed to become action-oriented and follow-up systems have been put in place. Another topic was related to obtaining practical suggestions for increasing the participation of youth in politics and civic duty, particularly given issue of participation in politics being a racial issue in some countries. For instance, it was suggested to enshrine a percentage of youth participation in parliaments and/ or governments. From the interactions, it was noted that young people in the Caribbean had everything they need to succeed. There was enormous potential for young people, they just needed to take control and work diligently to succeed. In fact, it was important for youth to change paradigms and break status quo. Changing views not based on traditional political views but what works and what is effective for youth and their community regardless of race and other variables.

91. Other discussions highlighted the importance of developing critical thinking and analytical skills in youth for participation in politics and civic duty by, for instance, introducing civics as a major part of education in schools. A suggestion was made to share curriculum between schools that have civic programs and those that do not in order to assess changes and impacts. In addition, it was recommended to create avenues for young persons to join to get information, for example clubs geared at sharing information related to civic duty. Panellists also stressed the fact that youth must be proactive in preparing themselves and suggestions were made towards collaborating with programmes such as City and Guilds civic programmes. Another topic of focus was how to address participation of youth at grassroot level who may not be traditionally involved, taking as a good example of the experience in Suriname. It was clarified that in Suriname, national youth parliament had representatives from all regions and worked together with other youth institutional bodies and networks. It was affirmed that young persons in Suriname had a voice and were trying to make it count and will continue to do so.

## **9. Recommendations for increased youth engagement in development frameworks: A proposal for action**

92. This session was moderated by the Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat and the Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies. Participants were asked to discuss and agree on priority issues to advance the regional youth development agenda and provide suggestions for the formulation of a proposal to create a regional mechanism to facilitate youth participation, engagement and collaboration.

93. The establishment of a regional mechanism to promote youth engagement, partnership and participation was discussed. The Caribbean Youth Regional Alliance (CYRA), proposed at the Fourth Caribbean Youth Leaders Summit in 2016 in Belize, would comprise of youth organizations and youth representatives in the Caribbean. The regional mechanism would serve as the focal point for coordinated engagement with youth at national and regional levels, for capacity building, political and policy-related participation and programme implementation related to the SDGs, CYDAP, SAMOA Pathway, PAYE, WPAY and other development frameworks. The CYRA would interact with and provide valuable strategic and current information to governments and development partners across a wide range of issues and disciplines. The CYRA would further maximize the synergies, collaboration and resources of the participating youth organizations and representatives, to foster greater youth involvement in regional integration and development. The CYRA partnership should address various issues and sectors, including youth development, food security, climate change, entrepreneurship, information and communication technology, among other areas. The founding members would include the CYAP, UWI STAT and CRYC.

94. Meeting participants were put into groups to discuss this proposal based on the following guiding questions:

- What are the priority actions?
- What? How? By whom? By when?
- What kind of regional mechanism would be inclusive?

95. The first group suggested that the priority actions for youth should focus on increased youth ownership. Programmes and projects for youth should be tailored to target specific age groups and there should be better use of the non-traditional media to communicate these ideas. These actions should be promoted by the Ministry of Youth, who should be the primary focal point, as well as youth organizations and development partners. It was also recommended that any regional mechanism should include youth development agencies and young persons from different groups, with priority on youths with disabilities, indigenous youth, LGBT youth and youth in institutions.

96. The second group suggested that education is a main priority action for youth. This group felt that any establishment of a regional review and advisory mechanism must have an alignment with the regional economic needs, which would include but not be limited to soft, social, technical and vocational skills. There must also be a dynamic, relevant and resilient curriculum that caters to the demands of the blue, green and orange economies and their correlation to local and regional economies as well as the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). This regional review and advisory mechanism should comprise of country representatives, representatives from the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), and technical advisors from other regional bodies. The group also noted that the regional recommendations should be those that can be selectively extrapolated and applied in national contexts and systems.

97. The third group recommended that capacity building is a main priority action for youth. This would involve an assessment of what exists and how it can be strengthened. This group felt that the creation of a new regional mechanism was not necessary as there are already a number of organizations and groups working on youth and another mechanism will further exemplify the bureaucracies and elitism often found in the work where marginalized populations often are deliberately silenced or unheard. These existing groups can improve on their collaboration to review National Youth Policies and Programmes and also strengthen grassroots work.

98. The fourth group stated that the first step before establishing a regional mechanism would be to work on building national frameworks and national action plans, which can be done in collaboration with youth affairs divisions, ministries, CARICOM, civil society and so on. The steps following this would be to establish and improve on functioning Youth Councils and develop, adopt, promote, and implement Youth Policies, and then establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the implementation of these Youth Policies (civil society organizations, Youth Councils, respective ministries and United Nations agencies). It was also suggested that the regional agencies such as CARICOM, CDB and United Nations agencies should build capacities of youth organizations in each country. Additionally, the group called for a virtual platform for communication and dissemination of information and a youth affairs desk in the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate the work of youth development across the region, especially in the areas of data collection, and information dissemination.

99. The president 2017-2018, UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassador Corps, Mona Chapter, then presented the recommendations for increased youth engagement in development which came out of discussions of the Youth Dialogue Sessions that took place in preparation for this Forum:

- Improve knowledge sharing, partnership, cooperation and coordination:
  - Support the maintenance and utilization of a comprehensive youth-friendly Web platform such as those created by the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and

the ECLAC Youth Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (JUVELAC) An “AND” component.

- Encourage the establishment of a digitalized registry of all youth organizations in each country.
- Awareness raising on youth and youth involvement in sustainable development frameworks:
  - Conduct a desk review of good practices in the subregion in the promotion of young persons in sustainable development.
  - Promote awareness-raising campaigns in order to change attitudes towards youth, including the concept of positive youth development, as well as to foster intergenerational dialogues and interactions, social inclusion and cohesion, with particular focus on youth at-risk in urban, rural and remote areas.
  - Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, including in schools and university curricula.
- Include cross-cutting issues in youth and sustainable development frameworks:
  - Promote inclusiveness and participatory approach in all phases of the development and implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes, which will facilitate the buy-in and leave no-one behind.
- Mainstream youth in development policies and related frameworks:
  - Promote youth mainstreaming in any national and subnational development framework, including policies, programmes, poverty eradication strategies, budgets, among others.
- Strengthen youth institutional frameworks and networks:
  - Promote the strengthening and establishment of sustainable National Youth Councils, by identifying solutions to the challenges that prevent performance: making National Youth Council's acts of parliament and making the National Youth Councils an umbrella organization of all youth organizations in the country.
  - Improve coordination and identify synergies among the different youth organizations and networks at the national and subregional level, to have an increased impact at the government and community levels and avoid competing for the same limited government recourses.
- Establish implementation and follow-up mechanisms of Youth Policies and programmes:
  - Develop a funding strategy for youth development in the subregion, considering the specificities and needs of each country.
  - Emphasize the importance of establishing indicators in the implementation plan of National Youth Policies, and identification of departments in charge of monitoring the implementation.
- Reform education and lifelong learning systems:
  - Promote non-traditional education and training programmes, including personal development skills, such as dance by well-trained and coach experts to assess student's competencies; and more technical vocational schools.
- Transform youth employment, including through market-driven skills and entrepreneurship:
  - Increase youth employment opportunities and entrepreneurship trainings by developing youth employment strategies/policies that would match the skills gaps

needed in the private sector, with particular focus on the green, blue and creative industries and be included in high school and university curriculum where possible.

- Promote meaningful youth participation, mobilization, and empowerment:
  - Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, through multiple trainings and then campaigns.
  - Promote the participation of young persons in subregional, regional and international forums, including in the preparation of reporting mechanisms.
- Adopt a holistic approach to youth health care:
  - Adopt or effectively implement comprehensive up-to-date sexual education with a focus on HIV/AIDs and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and reproductive health and family life planning, with the objective of reducing teenage pregnancy, that addresses the specific needs of girls, boys and adolescents. Adequate trained staff should be introduced in both primary and secondary schools to teach the necessary content and best practices.
  - Promote or expand psychosocial support for students who were subject to crime, violence, and abuse, as well as those impacted by disaster-related situations in the subregion.
- Address multidimensional poverty, violence and crime:
  - Create content and the ICT based applications that connect youth and promote citizen security, safe cities and alert others when violence occurs, following existing applications and platforms, such as U-Report which can be integrated into the juvenile justice system with the aim of reducing recidivism.
- Foster intergenerational relations and dialogues:
  - Promote or expand the involvement of young persons in the care of older persons, especially those in institutionalized care and in need of home-care services, and further develop and include gerontology, geriatrics, and palliative care in curricula at all levels, and in nursing and caregivers training programmes, while encouraging young males to consider careers in the caring professions. Similarly, encourage parents to allow grandparents to take care of younger children, by raising awareness on the benefits of intergenerational interactions.
- Building climate resilient young generations:
  - Promote the inclusion of youth in the creation, implementation, and decision-making processes aimed at combating climate change; risk assessments, preparedness, prevention, response, reconstruction processes after disaster-related situations to foster their resilience.
  - Encourage the involvement of youth in the promotion of alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly practices, through training programmes, and awareness-raising campaigns engaging them to shape change on environmental sustainability.

100. The Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados, stated that based on the outcome of recommendations from this Forum, it was important to focus on youth leadership and youth ownership of any future initiative. All stakeholders need to decide if they will build on existing models of a regional mechanism for youth or whether there would be the establishment of a new model which would have a new structure and monitoring framework.

101. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Development, Sport, Culture and Arts, Grenada, also gave his perspective on recommendations for increased youth engagement in development frameworks. He pointed out that one of the main issues is the lack of active youth participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of development initiatives across the region. He therefore recommended that the following actions be promoted:

- Legitimize Youth Representative Organizations (Youth Councils) and National Youth Development Frameworks via an act of parliament.
- Develop and implement a National Youth Participation Policy/Framework which would cover youth inclusion in national planning mechanisms; independent youth representation in the senate via National Youth Councils; a youth advisory body for the Minister of Youth.
- Establish a National Youth Think Tank to promote research in Youth Development
- Strengthen youth mainstreaming efforts.
- Develop a youth-led monitoring and evaluation system for youth development policies and programmes. This can be done through youth auditors that are a part of the National Youth Councils and who will be trained in monitoring and evaluation, and social auditing.
- Develop a National Youth Planning Commission which will be responsible for producing a National Youth Development Annual Work Programme.

#### **10. Consideration and agreement of the recommendations of the meeting**

102. The Director, Department of Youth and Culture of Anguilla, chaired a discussion in which meeting participants considered and agreed on a set of recommendations coming out the Forum for implementation. These recommendations will subsequently be presented to the Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development which will be held in Lima, Peru in August 2018. These recommendations appear as annex I of this report.

#### **11. Closure of the meeting**

103. The Honourable Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of Suriname expressed her gratitude to all who made the Caribbean Forum a possibility. The Forum reviewed the progress made towards youth development based on the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2012-2022, the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the review and follow-up of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. The Minister emphasized that youth must be fully engaged in policy and decision-making processes for the sustainable development of the Caribbean subregion. The Forum also gave the opportunity to learn from each other and to strengthen relations within the region.

104. She informed the participants that Suriname is willing to host a follow-up meeting to discuss the results of this Forum to ensure that each country within CARICOM is fully involved and on the right track of incorporating and implementing these results so that the effort of this Forum will not be lost. Furthermore, Suriname will host the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Meeting in 2019 to discuss the follow-up areas of youth development, and she encouraged Member States to be fully represented at that meeting.

105. The CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana expressed his appreciation on behalf of the people of the Caribbean, both young, and young at heart, to be able to participate in the Forum. He summarized the main topics discussed in the Forum and informed that the closing of this conference is not an end, but a new beginning and that the participants of the youth dialogues will be partnering on International Youth Day to follow-up on the progress made and recommendations from

the Forum. He highlighted the commitment from Caribbean people to sustainable socioeconomic and environmental development.

106. The Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat stated that the Forum was stimulating and inspiring as it lived up to many of the principles that the Caribbean wishes to advance, such as that of youth engagement and participation through youth dialogues and their presence in this important event. She thanked all the partners who came together to ensure that resources were available for there to be a good representation of the young people. This Forum was a good example of intergenerational tolerance, relations and cooperation, as the learning and the exchange that took place from the youth and the “seasoned youth” and the spirit of the meeting spoke to this intergenerational understanding. She acknowledged the Government of Suriname’s initiative to host follow up meetings as part of the next step of engagement with the youth of the region. It is the intention to work on the establishment of a regional mechanism, to ensure the continuation of youth engagement and participation.

107. Based on the ECLAC studies that were presented during the Forum, the issues affecting youth are urgent and the region needs to scale up the youth programming efforts on a national and regional level. She invited the regional partners to collaborate in the process of monitoring and evaluation and to work together in this area for the youth indicators and the goals.

108. The Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean mentioned that it was the first time she experienced such a level of vibrant engagement at an ECLAC meeting which was at the heart of the intergenerational exchange. She stressed that the policymaking process must ensure that youth continue to be an integral part in all decision-making processes and forums like these. She appreciated the partnerships and the collaboration that took place. She mentioned that the recommendations and concerns that came out of the Forum, will be presented to the Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Peru in August 2018. There will also be a youth dialogue at the Forum on Sustainable Development in Chile in 2019, and the Caribbean youth must be an integral part of this process.

Annex I**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE  
CARIBBEAN FORUM ON POPULATION, YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of these recommendations is to enhance youth participation and attention to the concerns of Caribbean youth in sustainable development planning and policymaking and, incorporating those concerns, to identify actions to further the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

Georgetown, Guyana, 24-26 July 2018

*We, the participants of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development,*

*Recalling* the adoption, twenty years ago, of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (1998) in which governments committed to develop national policies and programmes for youth, and to the participation of youth in policymaking,

*Concerned* at the damaging impact on Caribbean youth of poverty, discrimination, violence, unemployment, unintended pregnancies and HIV among other risks,

*Convinced* that supporting young people through their adolescence and youth and facilitating their transition to the roles and responsibilities of adulthood is crucial to their personal development and their long term health, wellbeing and productivity,

*Convinced* therefore that addressing the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of youth has a crucially important role to play in putting the Caribbean on the path to sustainable growth and development,

*Reaffirming* that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013) provides a regional framework for public policymaking on population and development issues that States continue to adopt, that complements the work of other mechanisms at the regional and international levels and reinforces the Cairo Programme of Action (1994) and its follow-up,

*Recognising* how the youth perspective is crucial to addressing population issues such as noncommunicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, recognition of the rights of minority groups, and management of international and internal migration,

*Bearing in mind* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as an overarching framework for inclusive sustainable development that leaves no one behind and will contribute to the realisation of human rights for all,

*Taking note* of the documents ‘Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes’ and ‘Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: a Review of the Period 2013 – 2018’ prepared by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean,

*Bearing in mind* the Report of the Youth Dialogues and the recommendations contained therein,

*Make the following recommendations:*

**Youth Policies and Programmes, youth participation and attention  
to the concerns of youth in policymaking**

1. Support the development of a comprehensive youth-friendly mechanism, including a web platform, to foster collaboration, coordination and synergies among youth organizations, governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, international and regional organizations and academic institutions.
2. Promote an evidence-based approach to Youth Policy development, including access to up-to-date, systematic and regular disaggregated data that will inform the design, implementation and review of Youth Policies, programmes and initiatives, supported by inter-agency collaboration at the regional and international levels; and the inclusion of youth within research teams and statistics units, in particular young female researchers and statisticians, who continue to be underrepresented in research and statistics fields.
3. Monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of National Youth Policies and promote youth mainstreaming with monitoring and follow-up across sectors using appropriate indicators.
4. Promote inclusiveness and a participatory approach in all phases of the development and implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes while emphasizing the importance of adopting a gender perspective, and including the following sub-groups: teenage mothers; youth belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities; indigenous youth; young migrants regardless of their migratory status; young refugees, asylum-seekers or stateless persons; those with disabilities; LGBT young persons; youth in conflict with the law; those deprived of their liberty; those in institutionalised care; those living in orphanages; young persons living with HIV/AIDS; those living on the street; the urban poor and those living in remote and rural areas.
5. Improve coordination and identify synergies among the different youth organizations and networks in order to have increased impact at both government and community levels and avoid competing for the same limited government resources, in particular between the Caribbean Regional Youth Council, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, UWI STAT, SDG Youth Ambassadors, youth-led businesses, Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs-Caribbean and Canada (CAYE-C&C), University of the West Indies Guild of Undergraduates, Commonwealth Students Association and other Caribbean and Commonwealth youth networks, youth-led grassroots and faith-based organizations.
6. Use live streaming and dynamic, relevant and interactive digital media and ICT in public policy consultation in order to facilitate youth engagement.
7. Promote non-traditional education and training programmes, including personal development skills, entrepreneurial training, vocational training and career guidance.
8. Increase youth employment opportunities by developing youth employment strategies and policies designed to address the skills gaps in the private sector and anticipate twenty-first century labour market needs, with particular focus on the green and blue economics and creative industries, entrepreneurship training and ensuring the relevance of the high school and university curriculum.



9. Encourage or facilitate as appropriate the appointment or election of young persons on key government boards and committees at all levels and in all sectors, with particular focus on areas such as gender affairs, crime and violence, environment and ICT.
10. Ensure effective implementation of up-to-date, culturally relevant and rights-based comprehensive sexuality education, facilitating access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services delivered by appropriately trained staff.
11. Explore measures to expand psycho-social support for young victims of crime, violence, and abuse, as well as those impacted by disaster and emergency situations.
12. Explore measures to promote mutual trust and respect-based relationships between young and older persons; expand the involvement of young people in the care of older persons, especially those in institutionalised care and in need of home care services; include healthy ageing in curricula at all levels and in nursing and caregivers training programmes, while encouraging young males to consider careers in the caring professions; and raise awareness of the benefits of intergenerational relations.
13. Promote the inclusion of youth in decision-making and the creation and implementation of programmes aimed at combating climate change; and in disaster risk assessments, preparedness, prevention, response and reconstruction in order to foster resilience.
14. Encourage the involvement of youth in alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, and ecofriendly initiatives, through training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns.
15. Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with a youth perspective, including in schools and university curricula, as well as through the creation of youth-friendly communication that will make the SDGs more accessible to young persons.
16. Explore measures to facilitate the participation of young persons in subregional, regional and international forums, including in mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council; the reviews by the High-level Political Forum and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and other platforms, such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Further implementation of the Montevideo Consensus  
on Population and Development**

17. Explore measures to build capacity for the production of age-disaggregated statistics and assessments of poverty and inequality.
18. Continue taking decisive action on population and development issues in the context of sustainable development planning and build capacity for evidence-based policymaking in key institutions to more deeply integrate population concerns into the development of sectoral policies, including those to reduce poverty and inequality.

19. Promote measures to strengthen social protection for families with children, including cash and in-kind benefits and services, subsidized health care and other measures to enhance the wellbeing of children, such as investment in pre-school education.
20. Advocate the strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to protect children from sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and other forms of violence, and reinforce public awareness, programmes for at risk children and support for victims.
21. Encourage the consideration of legislation to prohibit corporal punishment against boys, girls and adolescents.
22. Advocate for respect of the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of LGBT youth, starting in schools, including through the repeal of discriminatory laws; introducing laws to deal with homophobic and transphobic abuse and violence; training for police, educators and health service providers; and measures to address societal prejudices.
23. Develop long-term plans for the reform and development of pension systems (including digital pension systems), health and social care services, in the interest of creating universal, rights-based social protection systems which reinforce intergenerational solidarity.
24. Implement measures to recognise and support older persons in the contribution they make to the family, community, work place, civic and cultural life, maximising the benefits of intergenerational relations.
25. Consider signing and ratifying, as appropriate, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and other relevant international and regional agreements that apply to older persons.
26. Adopt, review, or enforce where they exist, legal and policy frameworks to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of abuse, neglect and violence against older persons, including cyber-based, financial and psychological abuse, as well as practices that infantilise older persons or that jeopardize their safety and integrity.
27. Promote an enabling regulatory and policy environment to ensure safety in the management of pregnancies of women, respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of women and achieving positive health outcomes for women, including through providing good quality contraceptive and family planning information and services, pre-natal care, providing for safe termination where necessary or appropriate, and meeting the particular needs of poor women, adolescents, rape survivors and women living with HIV.
28. Address the underlying health conditions which can lead to maternal mortality; improve emergency obstetric and new-born care; strengthen vital statistics systems for better monitoring of maternal mortality and morbidity; and work towards the provision of universal access to primary health care.
29. Design policies and programmes to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including those based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity and persons with disabilities.
30. Strengthen national HIV programmes, efforts to promote HIV testing, and treatment for all HIV positive persons in order to meet the 90–90–90 targets and end the AIDS epidemic.

31. Promote the implementation of measures to protect the rights of HIV positive persons with particular attention to LGBT persons, youth and other key populations enabling them to live their lives free from stigma, discrimination and violence.
32. Encourage the consideration of measures to promote the introduction of gender parity systems for political appointments to address women's underrepresentation in the political sphere.
33. Promote measures to achieve gender equality regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men at all levels of society.
34. Develop and review legislation and policies to comprehensively tackle gender-based violence, with the establishment of mechanisms for victims to access adequate protection, justice, redress and reparations, and to provide psycho-social support and counselling for perpetrators and other affected persons.
35. Encourage the development of legislation that protects the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and programmes of support.
36. Consider the situation of children of undocumented migrants and their access to education, health and other social services.
37. Develop policies to maximise the benefits of migration for economic development by promoting the free movement of skilled persons and wider engagement with the diaspora by means of trade, entrepreneurship, skills exchange, financing, remittances, and return migration.
38. Address territorial inequalities through the formulation of policies for enhancing mobility, resilient human settlements and for promoting adaptation to the impact of climate change and disasters.
39. Introduce, where appropriate, programmes enhancing indigenous peoples' access to education, health, employment and ICT with a view to eliminating the social inequalities by which they are systematically disadvantaged.
40. Protect, where appropriate, the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, with special attention to the challenges presented by extractive industries and with respect for the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.
41. Resolve to make all efforts to participate in future review cycles of the Montevideo Consensus, using national reviews and reporting as tools to guide implementation, and taking advantage of the way in which indicators for regional follow-up are integrated with those for the Regional Gender Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other platforms, thereby making the monitoring and reporting process more efficient.

Annex II**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

- Sophia Zachariah, Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs

**BARBADOS**

- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Community Empowerment

**BELIZE**

- Kylah Ciego, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

**DOMINICA**

- John Roach, Chief Youth Development Officer, Youth Development Division

**GRENADA**

- Kevin Andall, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts
- Jicinta Alexis, Gender Analyst, Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment

**GUYANA**

- Hon. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion
- Michael Brotherson, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Abigail Welch, Foreign Service Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Melissa Carmichael, Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Social Cohesion, Department of Youth
- Alicia Jerome Reece, Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Social Protection
- Aubrey Norton, Head of Migration, Department of Citizenship
- Chetwynd Osborne, Policy Analyst, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission / Liaison - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Vishal Hulbert Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Carole Bishop, Commissioner, National Commission for the Family (NCF)

**JAMAICA**

- Andre Richards, Senior Demographer, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
- Sean Davis, General Secretary National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ)
- Sean Davis, Deputy Chairman, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ)

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

- Vernon Connor, Special Adviser to the Minister of Youth, Department of Youth Empowerment

**SAINT LUCIA**

- McAllister Hunt, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Latoya Charles, Youth Representative, Saint Lucia National Youth Council (SLNYC)

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

- Nerissa Gittens, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth
- André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps

**SURINAME**

- H.E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Farishna Hoeseni-Hassankhan, Policy Adviser, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Michele Jules, Policy Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Tatjana Van Eer, Youth Parliamentarian
- Beryl Manhoef, SDG Youth Ambassador, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Samaidy Akima, CARICOM Youth Ambassador
- Ferranto Dongor, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

- Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
- Joy Mapp-Jobity, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development

**B. Associate members****ANGUILLA**

- Bren Romney, Director, Department of Youth and Culture

**BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

- Brenda Lettsome-Tye, Director, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports

**MONTSERRAT**

- Fitzroy Willock, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education

**C. United Nations Secretariat****Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**

- Nicola Shepherd, Focal Point on Youth

**D. United Nations Programmes and Funds****United Nations Development Programme**

- Mikiko Tanaka, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- Alison Drayton, Director/Representative, UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- Adler Bynoe, Liaison Officer, UNFPA Guyana

**UNFPA Youth Advisory Group**

- Jedidah Crosse, Guyana
- Jemima Crosse, Youth Leader
- Kimberly Gilbert, Co-Chair, Trinidad and Tobago
- Zaviska Lamsberg, Suriname

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

- Paolo Marchi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname
- Jewell Crosse, Youth and Adolescent Development Officer, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)**

- Alison McLean, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

**E. Specialized agencies****International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator, Regional Initiative, Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

- Robert Natiello, Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean and Chief of Mission, Guyana
- Eraina Yaw, National Project Coordinator for the Caribbean

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Andrea Giselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Kingston, Jamaica

**Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**

- Dr. Janice Woolford, Family and Community Health Specialist
- Jairetri Merchant, Intern

**F. Intergovernmental organizations****Organization of American States (OAS)**

- Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labour and Employment Section, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

**The Commonwealth**

- Sushil Ram, Programme Manager, Commonwealth Secretariat

**Commonwealth Youth Council**

- Franz George, Regional Representative, Saint Vincent and Grenadines,
- Kurba-Marie Questelle, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago

**Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

- Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Human and Social Development
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development
- Sherwin Toyne-Stephenson, Programme Manager, Crime and Security
- Laurette Bristol, Programme Manager, Human Resource Development
- Kendol Morgan, Programme Manager
- Riane de Haas Bledog, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development
- Hippolina Joseph, Deputy Programme Manager
- Jascene Dunkley-Malcolm, Communication Officer
- Rawle Ward, Senior Communications Technician
- Lynda Drakes, Senior Project Officer
- Patricia McPherson, Senior Project Officer
- Mareesha Stephens, Project Officer, Crime and Security

- Kanisha Commodore, Project Officer
- Ronald Joseph, Project Officer
- Anthonette July, Senior Clerk
- Gloria Whitney, Senior Clerk
- Petal Dodson, Clerk II
- Necola Myers, Clerk
- Marcia Blackman-Bishop, Stenographer
- Nigel Rowe, Videoconferencing Assistant
- Toné Aaron, Intern, Human and Social Development Department
- Nikita Blair, Intern
- Teon Coggins, Intern, Crime and Security Cooperation Project
- Nateshia Isaacs, Intern
- Natasha John, Intern, Human and Social Development Department
- Esther Osborne, Intern, Culture subprogramme
- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Consultant
- Dana Choi, Youth Volunteer, Gender Awareness

Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP)

- Dennis Glasgow, Youth Advocate

### **G. Other organizations and institutions**

**Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**

- Monica La Bennett, Vice-President, Operations
- Wayne Elliott, Research Analyst
- Raquel Frederick, Research Analyst
- Kemberley Gittens, Social Analyst

**University of Guyana (UG)**

- Leann Kendall, Lecturer
- Fitzgerald Yaw, Director of Strategic Initiatives

**The University of the West Indies (UWI)**

- Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Faculty of Social Sciences
- Indianna Minto-Coy, Senior Research Fellow, Mona School of Business and Management, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Michael Joseph, Project Coordinator, Youth Development Programme, Cave Hill Campus
- Sheriece Noel, Student / President UWI STAT 2017-2018
- Asha-Gaye Cowell, Immediate Past President, UWI STAT

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

- Courtney Brown, Country Manager/Director, Positive Youth Development/Community Development, Community Family and Youth Resilience Programme, Guyana

### **H. Non-governmental organizations**

**Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA)**

- Michael McGarrell, GIS Specialist and Forest Policy Officer
- Danella Clement, Youth Volunteer,

**Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC)**

- Shaquille Knowles, Chairperson

**Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC)**

- Derwayne Wills, Youth Representative

**Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA)**

- Jairo Rodrigues, Programme Officer

**Ikemba, Strength of the People**

- Kibwe Copeland, President
- Onika Frank, Vice President
- Shemar Davis, Assistant Secretary
- Esmond Alsopp, Treasurer
- Shaquille Williams, Media Officer

**The MultiCare Youth Foundation**

- Alicia Glasgow Gentles, Executive Director

**Youth Policy Labs**

- Andreas Karsten, Researcher

**I. Other participants**

- Aggrey Marsh, Representative, Guyana Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)
- Akola Thompson, Social Activist, Guyana
- Dwynette Eversley, Caribbean Youth Policy Expert, Empowerment Dynamics Ltd,
- Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre
- Richard Berwick, Consultant, Brain Power Media
- Shakira Lowe, Representative, I am a Girl Barbados
- Teocah Dove, Consultant – Social Development and Communications for Development

**J. Secretariat****ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Colleen Skeete, Team Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit



Annex III**PROGRAMME****Tuesday, 24 July**

0830 – 0900

0900 – 1000

Registration

**Opening of the Meeting****Chairperson:** Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana

Opening statements by:

- Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Hon. Dr. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion, Guyana
- H.E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Suriname - delivering message from H.E. Desiré Delano Bouterse, President of Suriname, CARICOM Lead Head of Government for Community Development

*Interlude - Parkside Steel Orchestra*

- Monica La Bennett, Vice-President (Operations), Caribbean Development Bank
- Alison Drayton, Director, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

*Interlude - Spoken word - Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre*

- Shaquille Knowles, Chairperson, Caribbean Regional Youth Council - Joint statement from Youth Organizations

1000 – 1030

***Coffee Break and official group photo***

Day 1 Coordinator: Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname

1030 – 1130

Session 1 A

**The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes + 20: A Progress Report on the Caribbean**

Presentation of the *Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*, preliminary recommendations and priority areas for action.

**Moderator:** Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat

- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC

- André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps
- Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies
- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados

1130 – 1230  
Session 1 B

**Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development**

Presentation and discussion of the *Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: A Review of the Period 2013-2018*.

**Moderator:** Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC
- Alison Drayton, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Andre Richards, Senior Demographer, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Michele Jules, Policy Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname

1230 – 1330

***Lunch / Introduction of youth groups***

1330 – 1500  
Session 1 C

**Frameworks to Support the Implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean**

Presentation and discussion of the main policy frameworks (WPAY, SDGs indicators for youth, CYDAP, PAYE, YDI) for youth development in the Caribbean: opportunities for synergies and improved coordination.

**Moderator:** Bren Romney, Director, Department of Youth and Culture, Anguilla

- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Nicola Shepherd, Focal Point on Youth, UN/DESA (Virtual presentation)
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Kemberley Gittens, Social Analyst, Caribbean Development Bank

1500 – 1515

***Coffee Break***

1515 – 1700

**SPECIAL  
SESSION**

**Mobilizing Youth to Advance the 2030 Agenda**

A session about the efforts of young people to advance implementation of the SDGs – with youth participants from the region and contributions from the online, preparatory Youth Dialogue Sessions.

**Facilitator:** Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

**Moderator:** Kyla Ciego, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Belize

- Beryl Manhoef, SDG Youth Ambassador, Suriname
- Michael Mc Garrell, Youth Advocate, Guyana and Amazon Basin
- Chetwynd Osborne, Policy Analyst at the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Guyana
- Kurba-Marie Questelles, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago
- Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre

1700 – 1730

**Day 1 Wrap-up Session**

- Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname
- Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica
- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago

1800 – 1930

SIDE EVENT FOR  
YOUTH  
PARTICIPANTS

**CARICOM Side Event: Training/Networking Session**

- Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago
- Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs

**Wednesday, 25 July**

Day 2 Coordinator: Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

0900 – 1000  
Session 2 A

**Youth Policy Interventions and Programmes: A Best Practice Exchange**

A session presenting case studies to address the challenges of youth at risk, providing success stories in the coordination of multidimensional interventions.

**Moderator:** John Roach, Chief Youth Development Officer, Dominica

- Alicia Glasgow Gentles, Executive Director, The MultiCare Youth Foundation (YUTE Programme)
- Courtney Brown, Country Manager, Community, Family and Youth Resilience Program (USAID), Guyana
- Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs
- Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

1000 – 1015

***Coffee Break***1015 – 1120  
Session 2 B**New and Emerging Youth Employment Opportunities**

A thematic session highlighting opportunities for youth employment in new and emerging sectors, including the blue, green and creative economies. The session will also discuss policy-level interventions to address the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment in the Caribbean, including entrepreneurship development.

**Moderator:** Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator, Child Labour, International Labour Organization

- Raquel Frederick, Research Analyst and Wayne Elliot, Research Analyst, CDB (Virtual presentation)
- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Richard Berwick, Lead Facilitator, Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO)
- Riane de Haas Bledoeg, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture, CARICOM Secretariat

1130 – 1230  
Session 2 C**Access to Appropriate Education and Training**

The panel will discuss challenges and obstacles hindering access to quality, relevant and appropriate education and training, and will underscore linkages with youth employment through skills development, technology, vocational education and training opportunities.

**Moderator:** Sophia Zachariah, Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda

- Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labour and Employment Section, OAS
- Franz George, Caribbean and Americas Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- Paolo Marchi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname
- Patricia McPherson, Deputy Programme Manager, Education, CARICOM Secretariat

1230 – 1330

***Lunch / Introduction of youth groups***1330 – 1500  
Session 2 D**Youth Political and Civic Participation**

The panel will discuss strategies and approaches to ensure active youth participation in political and socio-economic development processes at community, national and regional levels.

**Moderator:** Gregory Willock, Parliamentary Secretary, Montserrat

- Tijani Christian, Chairperson, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)

- Zaviska Lamsberg, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname
- Latoya Charles, Interim PRO Saint Lucia National Youth Council
- Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana
- Andrea Gisselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean

1500 – 1515

***Coffee Break***1515 – 1730  
Session 2 E**Recommendations for Increased Youth Engagement in Development Frameworks – A Proposal for Action**

The Forum will discuss and agree on priority actions to advance the regional youth development agenda and formulate a proposal to create a regional mechanism to facilitate youth participation, engagement and collaboration.

**Moderators:** Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat and Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies

- Asha-Gaye Cowell, President 2017-2018, UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassador Corps, Mona Chapter
- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados
- Kevin Andall, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Sport, Culture and the Arts, Grenada

1800 – 1930  
SIDE EVENT**Game-networking**

- Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

**Thursday, 26 July**

Day 3 Coordinator: Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago

0900 – 1030  
3 A**An Intergenerational Dialogue: What role for older persons in the changing structure of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean?**

Perspectives on work, life, care and intergenerational relations.

**Facilitators:** Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname and Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica

- Jennifer Rouse, Director of Ageing, Trinidad and Tobago
- Sean Davis, Deputy Chairperson, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica

- Carole Bishop, Member, Guyana Commission for the Family
- Shakira Lowe, ‘I am a Girl Barbados’

1030 – 1045

***Coffee Break***1045 – 1230  
3 B**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality**

Policy initiatives to better serve the needs of Caribbean youth, women and marginalized groups

**Moderator:** Jicinta Alexis, Ministry of Social Development and Housing, Grenada

- Dona da Costa Martinez, Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Dennis Glasgow, SRH Advocate and Member of the PANCAP Steering Committee on Youth Advocacy
- Alison McLean, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office, Caribbean
- Akola Thompson, Social Activist, Guyana
- Representative of LGBTI persons

1230 – 1330

***Lunch / Introduction of youth groups***1330 – 1500  
3 C**Migration, Diaspora and Development**

Managing skilled migration and engaging the diaspora in national development.

**Moderator:** Fitzgerald Yaw, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, University of Guyana

- Eraina Yaw, International Organization for Migration
- Indianna Minto-Coy, Senior Research Fellow, Mona School of Business and Management, University of the West Indies
- Michael Brotherson, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

1530 – 1630

***Coffee Break***

1630 – 1730

**Closure of the Meeting**

- H. E. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Agreement on key actions for the implementation and follow-up on the Montevideo Consensus
- Consideration of the recommendations of the meeting
- Closing remarks



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