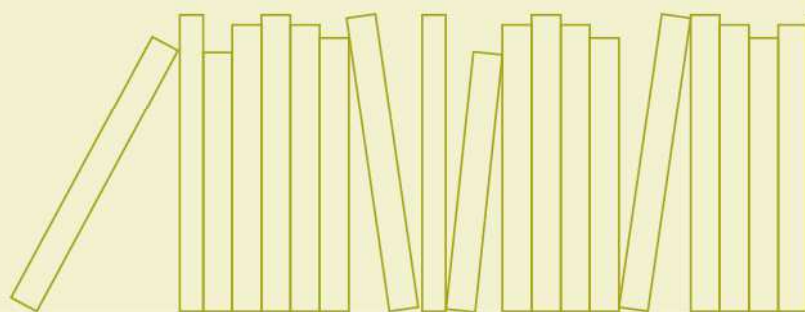Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

Report of the Learning Conference on implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Caribbean Region

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REPORT OF THE LEARNING CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

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CONTENTS

A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.   Caribbean countries face severe challenges and constraints in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Significant among these are the limited capacities to develop evidence-based integrated development plans that mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, among others. There is also limited capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate progress in the achievement of national and internationally-agreed development goals.

2.   Despite these challenges, experiences of Caribbean countries indicate that the subregion is making progress in localizing the 2030 Agenda. Countries have established inter-ministerial working groups and held consultations to improve national ownership of the global Agenda. Several countries have also benefitted from mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) missions to help advance their implementation of the SDGs. It was emphasized that policy coherence should focus on increasing synergies between policies to reduce trade-offs and to ensure internal consistency among policies. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean provides an excellent regional platform for peer-learning in addressing the challenges to sustainable development.

3.   Aruba, The Bahamas, Belize, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Sint Maarten have presented their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago are scheduled to present their VNRs in the next two years. However, concerns were raised on the noticeable absence of an environmental dimension in Caribbean VNRs that have been presented thus far.

4.   Statistical gaps limit Caribbean countries' capacity to develop indicators to measure progress in achieving the SDGs. Identified challenges include weak statistical regulations, lack of coordination among agencies producing official statistics, financial constraints, scarcity of data on environmental indicators, outdated data on the social sector, inefficiencies in data sharing and dissemination, and lack of dedicated capacity to produce SDG indicators. Notwithstanding, Member States have identified priority goals and indicators for measuring progress in achieving the SDGs.

5.   Conference participants highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement and building of more robust partnerships in advancing sustainable development in the subregion, within a whole-of-society approach. They emphasized the importance of civil society organizations, youth and private sector participation in the sustainable development process. Youth engagement was considered especially important as the youth stand to bear the consequences of current unsustainable development practices.

6.   Several country experiences were shared that could be replicated in other countries. These include:
- The use of education, awareness and training programmes to inform citizens of the 2030 Agenda;
- Linking the SDGs with other development platforms to integrate data requirements and reduce duplication of effort; and
- Strategies for localizing the SDGs to tailor them to countries' specific challenges, thereby incentivizing stakeholder participation.

7.   The following key recommendations were made at the conference:
- Public expenditure reviews should be conducted as a means to prioritize expenditure and improve public financial management;

- Strategies for positioning the SIDS sustainable development agenda in the Caribbean include the establishment of a Caribbean Forum for Sustainable Development as a replacement for the current Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the CDCC. In the context of a restructured mechanism, however, the importance of country ownership, and the presence of an effective infrastructure for institutional and policy coherence at the country level was emphasized.
- Development of a Caribbean online platform for sharing experiences on the VNR process, including VNR documentation.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the meeting

8.   The Learning Conference on implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Caribbean Region took place from 15 to 16 May 2019 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and was jointly convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

2. Attendance

9.   The Learning Conference was attended by representatives of 12 Member States of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), namely: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Representative of the following five associate members of the CDCC also attended: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands. Fiji, a Member State of the United Nations from the Asia Pacific region also participated in the Learning Conference.

10.   The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Department of Global Communications (DGC), and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices (UNRCO) from Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. Also attending were representatives of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

11.   The Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), The Commonwealth, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are five intergovernmental organizations represented at the meeting.

12.   Other Non-governmental organizations and institutions represented were: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), and The University of the West Indies (UWI).

3. Documentation

13.   The booklet of the Learning Conference on "Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean Region" served as the main preparatory document for the meeting.

4. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

3. Mobilizing public institutions for a holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda

4. Policy coherence in Caribbean countries for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda

5. Strategic positioning of the sustainable development agendas in the Caribbean

6. Effective monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress

7. Stakeholder engagement and partnerships for sustainable development

8. Capacity-building for sustainable development

9. Closure of the meeting

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of meeting

14.   The opening session was chaired by the Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR, and opening remarks were given by the following speakers:

- The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago
- The Honourable Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Minister with Responsibility for External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and Public Service, Saint Lucia, and Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
- Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR
- Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

15.   In opening the meeting, the Minister of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago, signalled that the conference was in accord with the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago. The Minister emphasized the need to strengthen stakeholder's engagement and partnership to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region, referring to Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to advance a multi-stakeholder partnership in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

16.   The Minister noted that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have varying degrees of success in implementing the SDGs and highlighted the fact that data gathering remains uneven. She observed that progress made towards sustainable development has been hampered by natural disasters, and the destruction of the ecosystem, which placed pressure on all sectors of development. The Minister also highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing on lessons learned and best practice from the region and urged for greater cooperation and commitment.

17. She underscored the need for decisive action on SIDS through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) pathway. She referred to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review session to be held at the General Assembly (GA) later in the year, which should result in a concise action-oriented and intergovernmental agreed political declaration. She congratulated ECLAC for the initiative to organize a learning conference and highlighted its importance for Caribbean SIDS, encouraging participants to use the knowledge and information from this conference to support their common agenda in the GA.

18. The Minister with Responsibility for External Affairs of Saint Lucia, and Chair of CDCC, expressed her appreciation to the organizers of the Learning Conference for their consistent support to countries in the region in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. She highlighted areas of special importance for SIDS, such as ocean management, climate change and poverty/inequality reduction as relevant challenges and stated the need for resilient infrastructure.

19. She highlighted capacity constraints as a challenge for Caribbean SIDS. She indicated that the institutional frameworks for integrated cross-sectoral planning are deficient and countries need to adopt whole of government approaches and produce disaggregated social and environmental data. She referred to the lack of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for evidence-based planning and to the considerable rift between the government and the private sector and highlighted the debt challenges faced by most Caribbean countries which poses a relevant constraint to finance the Agenda.

20. The Minister referred to the MAPS mission in Saint Lucia conducted the week prior, as a true demonstration of the United Nations coming together as one to engage the government and civil society to help align national policies and planning with the 2030 Agenda. She expressed her appreciation for ECLAC's support in preparing for Saint Lucia's first VNR to be presented later in the year at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). She highlighted the importance of reinforcing the synergy among the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, as particularly relevant in the Caribbean.

21. The United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR referred to peer learning promoted in such learning conferences as an opportunity for countries to explore issues in a practical and pragmatic way. He recognized the challenge in juxtaposing the many international frameworks and agendas in a meaningful way. The current world political environment also adds additional challenges to achieving the results proposed in these agendas.

22. He stressed three important pillars in the process: implementation, monitoring, and review. These require improving the integration of public agencies in implementing the 2030 Agenda, enhancing the role of the public, greater engagement of stakeholders and enhanced role of the United Nations development system, as well as better use of statistical systems and production of disaggregated data. He referred to the need for changes in national planning to reflect the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway, integrating strategies to raise finance and reflect the SDGs into national budgets.

23. The Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA, urged the meeting to take bold steps and join forces so that no-one is left behind. She further advocated for new governance models that reinforce the achievement of the SDGs. She informed that the conference had the purpose of reinforcing SDGs 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17 in preparation of the HLPF, which will address issues such as education, climate action, reducing inequality, access to justice and partnerships. She highlighted the important role of the VNRs which provide a good opportunity for countries to share lessons learned on the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway implementation

and encouraged countries to participate in the exercise. In 2019 there will also be the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway which will result in a political declaration.

24.   The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean expressed gratitude to the range of stakeholders and participants for their commitment to participate and share in the learning experience of the conference. She observed that the development challenges facing Caribbean SIDS are very different from those facing Latin America, and reiterated ECLAC's commitment to address the special challenges facing the countries in the Caribbean. She affirmed that the programme for the Learning Conference was designed with these challenges in mind, and that given the priority of the Secretary General for more efficient delivery of assistance, the meeting should be seen as a good celebration of the United Nations system collaboration.

2. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

25. The Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, informed the participants that as a subsidiary body of ECLAC, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee is uniquely positioned as the subregional platform to promote an integrative approach to sustainable development in the subregion. This platform, therefore, provides a good opportunity to highlight the meaningful progress that has been made so far under the auspices of the CDCC towards effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

26.   She acknowledged that the actions taken by ECLAC in support of Agenda 2030 implementation were mandated by CDCC, most recently at the 27th session of the Committee held in Saint Lucia, in 2018. At that time, the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community, was requested to provide institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway at the national and regional levels. This resolution, therefore, importantly sought to harness two mandates under ECLAC's purview that are critical to the well-being of the SIDS of the Caribbean: support for both Agenda 2030 and implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda in the Caribbean subregion.

27.   To date, ECLAC has organized three subregional technical meetings, conducted many in-country missions, and successfully completed several technical assistance activities to support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. CDCC's oversight of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been bolstered by two technical assistance projects, which are being delivered to Caribbean countries. With the support of German Society for International Cooperation's (GIZ) financing, ECLAC has provided six Caribbean countries (Aruba, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) with technical assistance to enhance their institutional capacity for national development planning for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Building on the successes of this project, ECLAC is currently implementing a new Development Account Project, also focused on strengthening institutional frameworks in the Caribbean to promote an integrative approach to the implementation of the 2030 and SIDS Agendas. Under this project, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago are receiving technical assistance in drafting a long-term integrative national development plan/strategy or in mainstreaming existing national development plans and strategies so that they are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway, as well as with other key platforms of relevance to SIDS such as the Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction.

28.   Across all CDCC Member States and associate members, ECLAC continues to promote gender mainstreaming in development processes, including in national policies and development

plans. Youth mainstreaming is also gaining increased importance in the work programme of ECLAC. Since the Caribbean Youth Forum jointly organized by ECLAC, UNFPA, the CARICOM Secretariat, the Commonwealth, and the Caribbean Development Bank in Guyana during July 2018, ECLAC has been engaged in youth dialogues to highlight the important role that youth can and should play in shaping the sustainable development agenda of the subregion.

29.   There has also been ongoing collaboration with the wider United Nations system where there has been several Rapid Integrated Assessments in the subregion, which serves as a first step in defining a roadmap for SDG implementation. To date, assessments were conducted in Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Furthermore, the United Nations system has conducted mainstreaming, acceleration, policy support (MAPS) mission in seven countries. These missions aim to identify bottlenecks to SDG implementation at the national and subnational levels and to provide targeted recommendations on accelerators for progress towards the effective integration and implementation of the SDGs. Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago have all benefitted from this mission.

30.   The Director noted that these and other activities championed by the CDCC and the United Nations system have resulted in appreciable progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean. She informed the participants that 13 CDCC Member States have established a coordination mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The countries that have a formalized mechanism are Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia. Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago have an interim/ad hoc arrangement.

31.   Another successful achievement is that 12 CDCC Member States are currently implementing long- or medium-term national development plans (NDPs). The Bahamas, Belize, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago have a long-term national development plan. Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname have a medium-term plan. Several countries are in the process of developing one, including Anguilla, Aruba, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Sint Maarten.

32.   In concluding, she reported that Guyana and Saint Lucia will present their VNRs to the HLPF in July this year. In so doing, they will join Belize that presented in 2017, and the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica that presented in 2018. In addition, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented their VNRs in 2017. It is also expected that Saint Vincent and Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago will present their VNRs to the HLPF in 2020. This is considered a good sign of the Caribbean's accelerated progress towards a greater embrace of the 2030 Agenda through national ownership, and a sign that the subregion is progressively scaling up activities which will contribute substantially to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

33.   The Chief of the Capacity Development Unit in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN DESA, read the informal communiqué from the Symposium on "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States: Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships", which was held in February 2017 in The Bahamas. She made reference to the progress already achieved by SIDS in implementing the SDGs. She highlighted the need for the SDGs to be implemented in a complementary way with the SAMOA Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sendai Framework, given their interrelated nature. Considering the threat posed by climate change and its adverse effects, she emphasized the importance of disaster risk

management and resilience building and highlighted the importance of good governance and incorporating social equity.

34.   She spoke of the need for policy coherence and global collaboration for implementing the SDGs and emphasized the importance of an integrated implementation of the SDGs within the public sector, incorporating "buy-in" at the political, central and local government, parliament, and public servant levels. In addition to government actors, civil society and the private sector must also be engaged in decision-making and provide coordinated support, while paying attention to the challenges many SIDS face, including high and unsustainable debt. Of particular importance to SIDS is information and communication technology and statistical capacity. Statistical capacity is of particular importance in monitoring and evaluating the efforts to achieve the SDGs. Countries should also harness new data sources to improve the information available for decision-making.

35.   The CARICOM representative presented on Regional approaches to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway. She recognized that while implementation is at the national level, the achievement of the SDGs will require multilateral cooperation and highlighted three main regional initiatives in this regard: (1) Human Resource Strategy in collaboration with UNESCO and CDB; (2) Regional Action Plan on Statistics; and (3) Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiative.

36.   She noted that the 2030 Agenda places tremendous strain on national statistical offices which are often under resourced and noted that the increase in demand on statistical offices has not been matched by a complementary increase in financing. However, CARICOM States have adapted their financial realities to become more efficient through the exploration of innovative strategies, new partnerships and data sources. The Regional Action Plan on Statistics promotes advocacy for statistics, while also focusing on training and capacity building, harmonization and modernization of legislation and the deployment of modern technologies. She referred to the Chaguaramas Treaty of 1973 which has instituted a regional Standing Committee of Statisticians that meets regularly. She stated that CARICOM will focus on 109 SDG indicators.

37.   CARICOM acknowledged the Caribbean role in the SAMOA process, as the first SIDS meeting was held in Barbados in 1994, which yielded the Barbados Programme of Action. The CARICOM representative recognized ECLAC and DESA SIDS Unit's roles in keeping the SIDS Agenda relevant and in the forefront and encouraged the Caribbean subregion to work in collaboration regarding the sustainable development process and to synergize the different international platforms and agendas using the SAMOA Review as an opportunity for the subregion. The subregion is convinced that the San Pedro Declaration remains relevant and meaningful. CARICOM is pleased that there would be discussion on a Caribbean SIDS coordinating mechanism as the subregion believes this is a viable platform to facilitate engagement of all Caribbean SIDS.

38.   The representative of Jamaica highlighted that Jamaica already had a National Development Plan in place called the Vision 2030 Jamaica which was approved by parliament in 2009. This plan was easily aligned with key national and international frameworks. The development of this NDP was also underpinned by high levels of stakeholder involvement and engagement.

39.   She referred to the process of coordinating the ongoing monitoring, reporting and accountability framework for the SDGs at the national and subnational levels, and indicated that the Roadmap for SDGs Acceleration in Jamaica (established in June 2017 out of the MAPS mission) outlined critical steps towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, covering its alignment with national priorities, acceleration, financing, data requirements, institutional coordination and advocacy. The Roadmap contained goals and accelerators which included the implementation of policies to trigger fast and sustained progress towards the SDGs in a context of limited fiscal space. It also targeted inclusion of non-state actors who were involved in the development of the SDGs

Oversight Committee. Importantly, for buy in and government priorities, the SDGs Oversight Committee was formed with membership from the political directorate. She highlighted the role and challenges with the production of the VNR, presented in 2018, and the leaving no one behind report which focused on vulnerable groups.

40.   The representative of Belize mentioned that Belize already had a long-term development plan called Horizon 2030, endorsed before the adoption of Agenda 2030. Despite this, it is very strongly aligned to the SDGs. An institutional mechanism, which included technical committee, was identified to monitor the development strategy. These committees were mainly composed of government representatives and lacked the integration of civil society and the private sector which was considered a challenge, and work is currently being done to bring them on board. She referred to the M&E framework, developed in 2017/2018 and the synergies being built with the SDGs indicators.

41.   Belize, as the first country in the subregion to present its VNR, faced challenges relating to the coordination of the two ministries involved in reporting on the four selected goals: poverty, health, gender and oceans. For the upcoming 2020 VNR, Belize will be using the lessons learned from the previous process, in producing the data that would be needed for the report, notably by engaging local stakeholders and ensuring the inclusion of civil society and the private sector.

42.   The representative of Aruba referred to the MAPS-based approach and shared the different steps of this process starting with the establishment of a task force to align and localize the SDGs. In 2015, Aruba concentrated on the institutional frameworks and the SDG Commission was established under Ministerial Decree. She referred to Aruba's first VNR in 2017, presented as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands' VNR, when Aruba was at the beginning of the implementation process and to the MAPS mission in 2017 which resulted in a draft roadmap. She highlighted challenges and opportunities for the upcoming VNRs, including the importance of avoiding working in silos and optimizing whole-of-government approach and the leveraging of innovation for sustainable development. The Aruba representative also referred to upcoming steps which will include implementing the SDG Commission's Strategic Plan 2019–2022, the development of the capacity building programme for civil servants and NGO's focusing on data production and project management, as well as ramping up engagement with the private sector and academic institutions.

43.   Discussions at the session focused on the importance of capacity development, the attitudes of Member States to develop their capacity for the implementation of the SDGs, the role of the United Nations in supporting Member States, the role of civil society, science and research in the implementation of the SDGs. The cost to finance the implementation of the SDGS was also addressed. There was a call for the United Nations to provide technical assistance focusing on enhancing statistical capacity and strengthening of monitoring mechanisms.

44.   The representative of Montserrat informed that the country is now at the end of their second sustainable development plan (2018 to 2020). She stated that the country had challenges with their medium-term policy as it was quite ambitious and unrealistic in its implementation. Manageable medium-term goals which were aligned to Cabinet approved sustainable development priorities were therefore developed tying the budget to achievement indicators. There is also a bridging document that will facilitate continuity from one administration to the next.

45.   The representative of Belize stated that the country has a programme budget with Ministries aligning their workplans with the M&E strategy. She noted that the country is conducting an expenditure review on the environment sector and this review will be included in the SDGs reporting. She also reflected on the importance of gap analysis in policy integration to ensure all government policies are aligned with the SDGs.

46.   The representative of Aruba highlighted the importance of working with research and academic institutions. She referred to the fact that the SDG Commission currently does not have a budget, but the Commission has been working with the Department of Finance to set up a SDG fund. She expressed the view that data are the backbone of evidence-based policymaking to impact effective budgeting.

47.   The representative of Jamaica emphasized the decisive role science and academia played in their VNR process. In Jamaica the mechanism through which the SDGs are implemented is the Vision 2030. It was also recognised that the Government can only finance about 50 per cent of the SDGs through their work and budget.

3. Mobilizing public institutions for a holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda

48.   In this session, the meeting participants examined the question of how public institutions could be effectively mobilized for a holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A brief overview of the process of designing institutional arrangements and a presentation on design thinking were given. These presentations were followed by an interactive learning session which focused on the theme "From single interest to shared purpose: the whole of government approach". Using a fictional case country, three working groups examined the following broad questions: What are the institutions that are contributing to the as-is scenario in your country? What are the current "pain points" the public sector must focus on to create a better future and achieve the SDGs? What are some ways to address the pain points identified, or general pain points relevant to your country?

49.   In her presentation on the process of designing the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Chief of the Capacity Development Unit, DPIDG, UN DESA, highlighted the need for a new social contract in order to promote the integration of the SDGs, bringing together all of society and having a perspective on the needs and objectives at national and subnational level. She highlighted the important role of good governance and commented that the lack of good governance and weak institutions pose a barrier to development. She drew attention to the incremental nature of institutional change and explained that incremental reforms are often more successful than over-ambitious grand reforms and they require attention to the embedded behaviours and internal consolidated practices. She concluded that the realization of the 2030 Agenda will depend upon effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

50.   The representative of IBM described how "design thinking" has helped many countries to develop plans and strategies for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

51.   Although several issues emerged from the group discussions, the issues focused on economic diversification, building resilience (institutional and physical) and migration were highlighted as critical challenges. Resilience to the frequent impacts of disasters and high energy dependency were identified as major challenges. Other challenges identified by meeting participants in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals included the absence of long-term planning, insufficient coordination, brain drain, lack of dedicated resources, lack of sense of urgency, skills shortages, lack of community involvement, and lack of job opportunities.

52.   Solutions identified as potentially having the most impact in addressing these challenges include: strengthening of policymaking; diversification to encourage job creation; investment in resilient infrastructure; public/private partnerships; the development of degrees and scholarships in strategic areas; and diaspora bonds. Additionally, the opportunity to foster entrepreneurship around green growth, protection of marine and coastal areas, climate smart agriculture, energy security, and ICT, were also identified. Other recognized areas include education, intergenerational dialogue, more impactful vocational skills training, and niche tourism, among others.

53.   The main institutions identified as providing critical support to the implementation of the SDGs were planning, infrastructure, environment, energy, agriculture, communication, tourism, farmer associations, export businesses, employer associations, financial services, input services, hotel and tour operators.

54.   The groups also noted that in order to promote institutional change, there should be an awareness of context-specific problems, political will to solve the problems and legitimacy and acceptance of a new institution as people must see value in the institution. Governments should also consider the structural dimensions of institutions such as their values; governance structure; goals they are trying to achieve; and the resources needed to achieve these goals.

4.   Policy coherence in Caribbean countries for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda

55.   The Programme Officer from the Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC reported on the discussions on policy coherence during the 2019 meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. She noted that there is a remarkable correlation between the creation of coordination mechanisms and VNR presentation by countries. She highlighted key messages of the Forum and indicated that learning from the experience of Caribbean countries that already reported their VNRs, other four countries are committed to reporting within the next two years.

56.   The conference received a presentation from the Senior Interregional Adviser on Governance and Public Administration Institution Building from the Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA, who underscored that the SDGs are an interconnected network and should be implemented as a whole. She referred to the principles of policy coherence and the required mechanisms for collaboration and coordination across different ministries at the level of policy and decision makers. Further, as real-world policymaking comprises negotiations around competing goals, capacity building for conflict management and negotiation skills is required.

57.   The Deputy Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters of the Caribbean presented on the role and challenges of conducting Public Expenditure Review (PER). He underscored that the objective of PER is not purely about expenditure reduction, but about broader issue of expenditure prioritization. As PER is a core instrument of expenditure prioritization, the process should be integrated into regular budget process. The Deputy Director spoke of the requirements and challenges in achieving expenditure prioritization.

58.   The representative of Dominica shared her country's experience in aligning the National Resilience Development Strategy and Sector Strategic Plans. To achieve policy coherence, the country engaged stakeholders as well as potential donors and external organizations, and ensured consistent policy direction among SDGs, SIDS agenda and national policies. Through the process, the country recognized the importance of stronger NGO and private sector participation, more explicit connections between sector objectives and specific SDGs and strategic alignment of policy effects of several areas, including population policy and human development strategy.

59.   In the ensuing exercise about policy coherence, the following points were raised:
- Getting political buy-in and ensuring coordination among different ministries requires a lot of efforts and significant resources, especially in the small islands states in the Caribbean.
- Environment issues are always pushed back because, for most countries, the first priority is economic, the second is social, and the environment is the last.

- An important feature/challenge of the policy discussion is that it starts from sector discussions and going beyond the sector or Ministry level requires deeper thinking on development.

60. The representative of Saint Lucia presented on the preparation of their first VNR in 2019. She noted that, through the process, Saint Lucia realized the challenges facing the country in lack of data, technical capacity and inadequate coordination between Ministries. However, the process brought significant benefits to the country. The Review of the Statistical Act will allow Saint Lucia to better collect data for evaluating and monitoring SDGs achievement. Extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders will also result in greater awareness of the SDGs, encouraging more ownership of the process and wider participation from different groups.

61. The representative of Guyana presented on the process regarding the country's first VNR which will be put forward at the 2019 HLPF. In the process of developing its Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, Guyana identified a critical challenge in in-house human capital development for data collection and analysis, as well as in M&E, but regarded the challenge as an opportunity to transform the country. The establishment of the Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism marked a significant progress in promoting coordination among different Ministries.

62. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported that the country has completed a stakeholder mapping, identified challenges to their engagement and drafted potential timelines for VNR, which will be presented at the HLPF in 2020. The country plans to establish the National Coordinating Mechanism, revise the National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) and align it with the 2030 Agenda.

63. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago stated that the VNR process had started. She observed that there should be a dedicated oversight mechanism for monitoring and reporting on implementation of the SDGs and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and recommended partnership for data generation. Another challenge is competing priorities and the associate demand on resource. To overcome this challenge, the country plans to establish a standing committee that will assess and prioritize policies and initiatives that support SDG implementation and achievement; and to support specific coordination, implementation of and reporting on the SDG achievement, and focus domestic budgeting on the 2030 Agenda.

64. In the ensuing discussions, the VNR process was commended as a mechanism to share information on real life implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean in a more structured way, especially because the subregion tends to operate in isolation due to challenges such as travel cost. The VNR process was praised as a continuous learning mechanism of the countries, acknowledging that the lessons learned from the VNR will be fed into the country's policy design and decision-making process.

5. Strategic positioning of the sustainable development agendas in the Caribbean

65. In setting the context for an interactive dialogue during the session, two presentations were delivered. In her presentation, focusing on the challenges and opportunities identified in the first review of the SAMOA Pathway implementation, the Economic Affairs Officer, Small Island Developing States Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA, identified, among the most important challenges, declining financial flows to SIDS particularly those with middle-income status, compounded by the lack of data, and the lack of a systematic assessment framework for the Samoa Pathway. Among the opportunities, she noted the possibility to access new development inflows for SIDS.

66.   In her presentation, the Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, elaborated on a proposal for a revised monitoring and coordination framework for the implementation of the SIDS Agenda in the Caribbean. This new proposal calls for views on the establishment of a Caribbean Forum for Sustainable Development as a replacement for the current Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the CDCC. The rationale for the new mechanism is based on the recognized limitations of the current model for providing a long-term, comprehensive and systematic management of SIDS implementation. Unlike the current model, the new proposal is expected to become a true coordinating mechanism with countries at the centre thereby accelerating the implementation of SDG Agendas while at the same time fostering synergies.

67.   The interactive discussions forged consensus around the need for an enhanced coordinating mechanism, with many countries endorsing the proposal. Among these were, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Cuba, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. In adopting the new mechanism, however, the importance of country ownership, and the presence of an effective infrastructure for institutional and policy coherence at the country level were noted.

6.   Stakeholder engagement and partnerships for sustainable development

68.   The Governance and Public Administration Expert, DPIDG-UNPOG, UN DESA, presented on the whole-of-society approach. He referred to the most prominent challenges as expressed among SIDS for continued capacity building. These are:
- Institutional Coordination — vertical and horizontal, across ministries and with local government, especially for NSOs, SDG coordination focal points, and data flow;
- Stakeholder engagement — strengthening dialogue skills and partnerships for implementation (Private Sector noted as most challenging sector to engage);
- Resources — to Monitor & Evaluate progress (inclusive of allocation in national budget), as well as to implement programmes;
- Data collection for M&E of progress on SDGs;
- Communicating Progress — including telling the story of progress, presenting reports, dashboards, communication tools for decisionmakers and public.

69.   The Governance and Public Administration Expert gave an overview of various planning and assessment tools and concluded that institutionalizing stakeholder engagement is fundamental for achieving the 2030 Agenda. He emphasized that this requires country contextual mechanisms and tools as there is no one size fits all solution, as well as political will and leadership commitment. He also referred to the importance of setting standards and quality indicators for assessing the engagement.

70.   The Senior Technical Officer, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), spoke about enhancing the role of civil society in implementing the SDGs and highlighted some of the work that CANARI has been undertaking in Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with a network of other leading civil society organizations. One key initiative highlighted was the creation of a SDGs Catalysts Network in Trinidad and Tobago by CANARI and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as part of a 3-year EU-funded project "CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago" (CSOs4GoodGov). CANARI is convinced that the SDGs Catalyst Network is a valuable model for civil society engagement in development and policy processes that can be replicated in other Latin American and Caribbean countries. Currently, 23 leading civil society organizations in Trinidad and Tobago have formed this Network, and are engaged in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the national agenda for SDGs in partnership with the government and other stakeholders. These organizations represent a range of sectors, including education, environment,

health, gender equality, youth, LGBT rights, poverty reduction and social development, and can contribute to delivering the SDGs.

71.	The expected impact of this initiative includes the strengthened participation and overall impact of civil society organizations in the national SDGs process by: presenting a united voice; increasing visibility of civil society organisations contributions; and highlighting and reinforcing their tripartite role as implementers, advocates and watchdogs.

72.	In conclusion, the representative offered four key recommendations, based on the experiences of the SDGs Catalyst Network over the last two years, in charting the way forward and enhancing collaboration and partnerships between civil society and the public and private sector for effective implementation of the SDGs:
   (i)   Government support to self-organization and capacity building within national civil society networks for effective representation and voice;
   (ii) Create spaces for civil society organisations to be formally represented on decision-making bodies and structures (e.g. national committees) and include civil society representatives on national delegations;
   (iii) Engage civil society in the formal process to monitor national implementation, while recognizing the value of independent monitoring and review by civil society (shadow or spotlight reports);
   (iv) Create credible spaces for knowledge exchange and sharing to help enhance capacity and viability nationally and regionally.

73.	The National Coordinator, Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN), Trinidad and Tobago, presented on strengthening institutions and creating an enabling environment for effective stakeholder engagement and people centred development. The representative noted that there were great challenges in considering each national policy and priorities, while ensuring that no one is left behind. One of the major vulnerable groups are young persons because they will inevitably experience the brunt of the current unsustainable practices. She expressed the view that youth engagement should go beyond an opportunity to sit at the table. CYEN views youth as an important and critical development resource and is a strong institution that continuously offers an enabling environment.

74.	One of CYEN's recent initiatives is the Youth Initiative Empowering Leadership and Development (Y.I.E.L.D.) which promotes education, advocacy and awareness of the global goals. In February 2019, CYEN engaged over 300 young people in different locations across Trinidad. The data collected highlighted that few knew about the 2030 Agenda. Under the assistance of the CSOs for Good Governance Initiative, the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations Information Centre, participants were encouraged to understand how all 17 goals interconnect and appreciate how the goals align with existing national and subnational plans and actions. The project empowered young persons to collaborate among themselves to design and implement advocacy strategies in the form of social media, education drives, volunteerism and artistic expression.

75.	Another example of CYEN's initiatives is the Learn and Flow Project: the Arima and Courland water story. Through the implementation of SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, CYEN encouraged community action. This initiative impacted over 1200 students and 300 community members in both Trinidad and Tobago who engaged in community and stakeholder meetings, school outreaches, tree planting activities, water quality testing and training exercises, an Earth Day Walk, community river clean-ups and a school essay and poster competition. This would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the young persons, the government agencies such as the Water and Sewerage Authority and the Mayor's office and grassroot community groups such as the Asa Wright Nature Centre, the Indigenous First Peoples and the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago.

76.   The Global Director Corporate Affairs, AB InBev, presented on their efforts to implement the SDGS in their business operations. A global brewer and distributor, they have a sustainable development strategy that incorporates two sets of goals. The first set are Sustainability Goals, which focus on sustainable practices in their supply chain and packaging and in their water stewardship. The second set are their Global Smart Drinking Goals, which aim to reduce harmful drinking practices and the negative health effects of alcohol. Their sustainability agenda contributes to achieving 12 out of the 17 SDGs. The presentation focused on a road safety methodology AB InBev developed and then shared globally through a partnership with UNITAR. The partnership with UNITAR provides road safety management toolkit for cities, support and advice to local governments and other partners with knowledge-related services, and capacity building to manage road safety at the local level.

77.   In the ensuing discussion, the main concerns raised were on data collection. Participants were interested in the presenter's experience of using lengthy questionnaires and discussed the diminishing participation seen at stakeholder consultations and consultation fatigue.

7.   Effective monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress

78.   The representative of Anguilla noted that the country has strengthened its capacity to collect quality data. The country started with the Statistical Department holding discussions with relevant ministries to establish data collection flows and secure support for collection, management and storage of administrative data. The country also designed and published an environmental compendium, with each chapter aligned with the SDGs. Through this activity, Anguilla is better positioned to identify data gaps and to put mechanisms in place to address them. The National Statistical System (NSS) is positioned to make available data and meta data widely available so efforts should be devoted to collecting new data.

79.   The representative of Aruba indicated that the country has focused on strengthening statistical capacity, including the development of a National Strategy for capacity building in the production and use of data. The Indicator Working Group (IWG) on SDG data finalized a feasibility study on the capacity needed for producing data for the SDG indicators, and is in the process of developing a National M&E Framework. The feasibility study report, AMIGA (Aruba Model for Indicator Generation Assessment), identified the need for financial resources, specialized human resources, and specialized technical resources. The country is working on establishing its NSS (National Statistical System) and overcoming M&E challenges such as creating innovations and synergies across different data ecosystems, developing an evaluation feedback loop, and achieving harmonization, standardization and comparability within and across countries.

80.   The representative of the British Virgin Islands stressed that after the flooding and two devastating hurricanes in 2017, the country developed a recovery and development plan and established an agency to carry out the plan. ECLAC's support in helping the country to hold sensitization workshops involving different government ministries, in identifying indicators relevant to the country, and in providing assistance to review outdated national integrating strategy and to localize the SDGs was acknowledged. The country faces some challenges in integrating the SAMOA Pathway into the fiscal planning process and involving civil society and the private sector in the working group. The Office of the Premier held a series of meetings with the Ministry of Finance to discuss the feasibility of the SDG indicators. The British Virgin Islands also recognized the need for establishing a unit dedicated to planning to ensure cohesion in pursuing the National Development Plan.

81.   The representative of Fiji stressed the importance of Fiji's National Development Plan which embedded the SDG priorities and the Paris Agreement goals. Resulting from the country's SDG self-assessment, which identified the need for localizing SDGs and establishing a monitoring mechanism, a M&E template was established for monitoring outputs of government agencies. As the

M&E framework is a relatively new version, the country needs to build greater awareness and buy-in from all stakeholders, including local- and provincial-based agencies as well as the non-State actors. Fiji is also facing other emerging issues such as ensuring clarity on the scope of work for the SDG Taskforce, creating integrated reporting for global and regional commitments, and overcoming capacity and system gaps to implement the SDGs and NDP effectively.

82.   The representative of Jamaica referred that the implementation of the SDGs has been integrated into the country's first long-term national development plan (Vision 2030 Jamaica) which covers the period 2009–2030. Developing SDGs Indicators for Jamaica comprised of three phases: (i) Assessment, (ii) Data Collection, and (iii) Reporting: statistical annex in VNR report. Through this process the country recognized the following challenges:

- Legal framework: the absence of a single piece of legislation which governs official statistics; and lack of coordination among agencies producing official statistics;
- Financial constraints: financing needed for all areas of delivery of the SDGs; and limited funding for data collection due to high debt burden and competing priorities for budget;
- Data production: highly paper-based administrative data in some ministries, departments and agencies; lack of standardized definitions, standards, classification; and lack of compliance with regional and international standards for some programmes;
- Data dissemination and data sharing - maintaining confidentiality of respondents is preventing disaggregation of data at all levels; and limited access to data for the production of official statistics because some ministries have to purchase data;
- Data gaps: scarcity in environmental indicators; and outdated information in social areas;
- Training and capacity building - there is need for a dedicated staff/team for the SDGs; and there are no dedicated statistical units for the production of SDG indicators.

83.   In addressing the challenges, Jamaica hopes to:
- Strengthen the national statistics system;
- Launch the National Reporting Platform for the SDGs;
- Prioritize the development of indicators based on the MTF (Medium Term Framework);
- Conduct training and capacity building;
- Improve the M&E framework to track the progress towards the SDGs.

84.   The representative of Suriname reported that, after approval of the CARICOM core SDG indicators, the country assessed data availability and found almost half of the 109 indicators were not available. As baseline data, the country conducted six surveys and is finalizing the publication of the report. The country participated in a regional project on gender inequality data and presented it to the parliament. Suriname also launched the Medium-term National Development Plan 2017–2021 and the National Strategic Plan for Health and Wellbeing 2019–2028, which are aligned with the SDGs and other international frameworks.

85.   Suriname is working on reforming its planning system. Planning units are developing indicators to monitor programs in ministries, which are linked to the SDG indicators. As limited availability of disaggregated data is always a challenge in small countries, it is important to develop capacity of different line ministries to produce disaggregated data.

86.   The representative of Turks and Caicos Islands noted that the country's National Development Plan, Vision 2040, has five interconnected sustainable development dimensions, which are basically aligned with the SDGs. She stated that the country conducted a Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), which captures SDGs indicators under 11 goals.

87.   In order to overcome challenges such as (i) lack of commitment from stakeholders, (ii) lack of human resources, and (iii) lack of funding, the country plans to implement actions directed at

dissecting the SDGs and identify the various stakeholders, establishing a committee that meets on a regular basis, and signing MOUs with the different departments to get their commitment to the project and implement the SDGs within departmental budgets.

8. Capacity-building for sustainable development

88. In this session, the meeting discussed issues related to forging a global learning platform for SDG capacity building. The session explored the United Nations' efforts in transformational leadership and improving data literacy to advance the implementation of the SDGs.

89. The Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR, highlighted four cross-cutting strategic areas where focused support to Member States should be leveraged: support to integrated polices; monitoring and data; stakeholder engagement; and innovation.

90. UNITAR offers learning solutions (e.g. toolkits, workshops, online courses, learning conferences and blended training programmes) and supports institutional development, and is currently exploring opportunities for mini applied research projects as a follow-up to its workshops where specific ideas have been put forward by participating countries.

91. The Agenda 2030 team is currently working on three innovative technology-based solutions:
- United Nations SDG: Learn is a gateway being developed by UNITAR and United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) to connect potential learners with the courses on SDGs that are best fit to their needs. The platform, to be launched during the HLPF in July 2019, will connect to courses delivered by all partners from UN agencies, to academia, universities and the private sector.
- StaTact is a web-based methodology and tool already applied by 28 countries that enables national statistical offices, planners and other stakeholders to address prioritized data gaps in a short run. This is done through a multi-stakeholder dialogue with various members of the national statistical system, non-traditional data sources and data users, whereby they analyse bottlenecks, possible solutions and develop realistic action plans to be implemented in 6–12 months. Two of the Caribbean countries used the tool: Suriname in 2018 and Grenada (the web-based version) in 2019. UNITAR and the United Nations Statistics Division are currently working on finalizing the monitoring stage of the tool to enable countries to follow up on their action plans.
- UNITAR and the Millennium Institute developed a simulation game for policymakers to appreciate the interactions between various goals and targets and how investment and funding decisions in one area may affect results in another one.

92. UNITAR has been supporting stakeholder engagement through various activities and has been particularly leveraging online learning for this purpose. Some of their courses include:
- A joint UN DESA-UNITAR course for government officials from SDG coordinating ministries on how to strengthen stakeholder engagement and develop a stakeholder engagement strategy in the context of VNRs, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- An open online course - Introduction to the 2030 Agenda.

93. UNITAR also has ongoing work in support to national statistical offices and systems in the context of monitoring SDGs with a special focus on improving data governance, and dialogue between data users and data producers.

94. The chief of PMCDU DPIDG, UN DESA, presented on their work with the "Global Initiative for Schools of Public Administration" to transform leadership and equip public servants with the

capacity to implement the SDGs. A competency framework for SDGs has been developed and a curriculum framework for the schools of public management is in development. She referred to the principles of effective government for sustainable development: effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness.

95.   The Head of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) DPIDG, UN DESA, described how the United Nations has engaged with public administration schools in the Asia Pacific region through a regional task force. They carried out a baseline survey with public administration schools to assess how curriculums map onto the SDGs and have developed competencies for the implementation of the SDGs, curriculum models, and short course training material. Changing public service mindsets and changing behaviours is at the core of this.

96.   UNITAR Agenda 2030 Specialist described how the organization provides technical assistance to support the implementation of the SDGs. Technical assistance has focused on the areas of evidence-based decision-making, data, stakeholder engagement and innovation. The institute has created an innovation partnership platform, a web-based tool developed in conjunction with United Nations Statistics Division to connect data users and producers to help them to identify SDG data gaps, and innovative solutions to fill those gaps. They have also developed training in stakeholder engagement for civil servants working in SDG coordinating intuitions, and a massive open online course (MOOC).

97.   The representative from Antigua and Barbuda argued that flexible strategies were needed, particularly for small states from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that do not have a national university or, in some areas, government capacity, and where they are dependent on pooled resources through either CARICOM or the OECS.

98.   The Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR, commented that despite international support, there are still challenges in addressing all needs and e-trainings may be a way to maximize assistance in capacity development. He suggested that such arrangements are feasible to implement, following the experience in the Asia and Pacific Region, and encouraged UNITAR and DESA to join forces with ECLAC for such endeavour.

99.   The Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit spoke about the value of statistical literacy in the public sector. Statistical literacy in the most general terms is simply knowledge of numbers and if public sector workers have statistical literacy they can collect and process administrative data in a way which preserves its statistical value for use by statisticians. He referred to how statistical literacy in the public sector can be promoted by engaging the public and improving service to fellow citizens.

100.   The Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, described how public spending does not always equally benefit both genders, for instance when it relates to access to public space. She emphasized the importance of gender responsive budgeting and incorporating gender considerations into national development planning. Furthermore, she appealed for policy to be evidence-based, in regard to issues that affect men and women.

101.   The representative of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network emphasized the importance of partnerships. She described a three-pronged approach to the inclusion of young people: engagement, education and empowerment. She observed that twenty years from now, current primary school children will be in jobs that do not currently exist. Ultimately, it is important to include active youth participation in the SDG implementation and policymaking process.

102.	The Director of Development of UWI discussed three important areas in which UWI is contributing to the implementation of the SDGs:
   (i)	Capacity building for civil servants through an online training course: 'Transformational Leadership to Achieve the SDGs in Developing States';
   (ii)	Research and innovation – leading a group of ten universities on SDG13 (climate change), through the Global Cluster on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development;
   (iii)	Knowledge brokerage and advocacy through the organization of the "Caribbean Action 2030: Regional Conference on the SDGs in 2017" and a Regional Youth Advocacy Campaign, supporting activities such as the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development and the Youth 4SDGs competition, both organized by ECLAC.

103.	Aruba's contribution focused on analysis, capacity design and the country's current involvement with the private sector to develop new business models. The representative mentioned the intention of Aruba to launch a youth SDG summit, in collaboration with Jamaica and Guyana.

104.	The Senior Technical Advisor to the Director-General, Planning Institute of Jamaica, gave a presentation on Jamaica's process of reporting on the VNR. She sensitized participants from countries preparing a VNR to the competing work responsibilities that accompany the VNR process. She advised that VNR process must be prioritized for a country to benefit. She highlighted some of the benefits from Jamaica's preparation of their VNR:

   • It gave a comprehensive assessment of the national statistical systems and identified what needed to be improved;
   • Island wide consultations increased the visibility of Jamaica Vision 2030 and raised public awareness of the SDGs;
   • The VNR positioned Jamaica to be very successful for the implementation of the SDGs and its process;
   • The Audit General Department conducted an audit of the SDGs and was able to highlight gaps and inefficiencies;

105.	The Senior Adviser, Office of the Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda, noted that the Prime Minister established an ad hoc committee and a cabinet subcommittee on SDGs that is headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Social Transformation. With regard to SDG 14 on maritime affairs, the country created an Ocean Governance Committee which brings together fisheries, shipping, foreign affairs, legal and relevant technical personnel.

106.	The Assistant Director, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, referred to the country's decision to present the VNR by 2020 as an opportunity for stocktaking in identifying gaps and areas of assistance by donors and in strengthening accountability and transparency, as well as serving as a tool to report country's achievements.

107.	The Economic and Financial Analyst II, Ministry of Finance of Guyana, emphasized the hard work involved in conducting a VNR. The importance of data gathering was the impetus for conducting a workshop for government stakeholders in Guyana. The coordinating body used a tool to show the links between different government bodies relevant for each SDG target. There was a challenge in collecting data from remote communities within the country. To strengthen collaborative efforts, the Minister of Finance included the VNR process in the cabinet level meeting so that other ministers could be aware and prepare their staff to participate. Guyana also leveraged the VNRs in negotiation with donors in order to access funding linked to the country's national plans.

108. Guyana thanked countries for their excellent presentations and highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing within the Caribbean context. The representative appreciated that Jamaica documented their process and the lessons learnt and noted that it would be helpful if it could be shared. She asked if UN DESA and ECLAC could develop an online Caribbean platform that could be used to share experiences and aspects of the VNR process. She encouraged countries to document their individual processes as this would facilitate sharing and enhance the learning experience.

109. The representative of the British Virgin Islands also congratulated the countries on their excellent presentations. She enquired about the number of persons in Antigua and Barbuda's ad hoc committee. She noted the difference between the language used at the political directorate versus the technocrats and asked how this gap could be addressed. Antigua and Barbuda stated that there were 14 persons on their ad hoc committee, but it was not a true reflection of stakeholder representation. Jamaica informed that the technical team was strong which ensured the success of the VNR as well as the political engagement. They believed the responsibility for the VNR process lay at the feet of the technocrats.

110. Barbados's intervention endorsed the need for technocrats to lead the VNR process. The representative encouraged countries to continue to report and suggested it could lead countries into dialogue with partners and new opportunities for development.

111. The representative of Aruba asked for an indication of the length of the entire process to which Jamaica responded that it took two months, even though the process was initiated in November the previous year and they presented in July.

112. Guyana recommended research to be backed by data, but also that there should be appropriate communication to tell "your" story. She noted that even though her country was on track to complete the process, she would recommend that countries now embarking on the process give themselves more time, possibly two years, one year for preparation and the other year for actual execution.

9.   Closure of the meeting

113. In closing the Learning Conference, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC for Programme and Management Analysis; the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA; and the Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR gave remarks.

114. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC for Programme Management and Analysis stated that the conference had been organized in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He noted the interest and continuing national efforts to present the VNRs at the HLPF which offers an opportunity to self-assess and take stock of the sustainable development agenda implementation. He said that ECLAC is optimistic on the pace of the 2030 Agenda implementation in the subregion and noted that the Learning Conference also gave the opportunity to learn from each other and to strengthen relations within the subregion. He also noted the value of capacity building through peer learning for SDG implementation and acceleration of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean. He thanked all participants for the enthusiastic participation and commended the partnership undertaken to organize the event.

115. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA, welcomed the contribution of participants to the meeting and said that the event had been a valuable learning experience. She highlighted as key messages the critical importance of capacity development to achieve localisation, the requirement for strong institutions and improved

coordination, the fundamental role of data collection and management for policy coherence, and the importance of engaging stakeholders to activate partnerships with the private sector and buy-in from civil society. She also emphasized that SIDS issues should be highlighted within the rest of the global Agenda and encouraged more countries of the Caribbean to report to the HLPF and participate actively in the SAMOA review. In finalizing, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs thanked the host, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, for its hospitality, and UNECLAC and UNITAR for the partnership.

116. The Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR called on all those present to value the learning experience by pursuing the work of the 2030 Agenda and acknowledged the contribution from women to the meeting. He recognized the vitality of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean and raised as main conclusions the appreciation of the importance of the SDGs to guide the contextualization of the pathway to sustainable development. He highlighted that implementation, monitoring and review are the key steps in the process of change and the VNRs reflect this understanding. He thanked ECLAC, UN DESA and UNITAR for the partnership in organizing a successful conference.

<u>Annex I</u>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Member States

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
<u>Representative:</u>
- Amb. Colin Murdoch, Senior Adviser, Office of the Prime Minister

BARBADOS
<u>Participant:</u>
- Travis Sinckler, Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of Environment

BELIZE
<u>Representative:</u>
- Darlene Padron, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development

CUBA
<u>Delegation members:</u>
- Cristobal Díaz Morejón, Senior Official, Environmental Specialist, Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
- Solangel Santana, Trade Policy Specialist, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

DOMINICA
<u>Representative:</u>
- Kyra Paul, Social Development Planner, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

GUYANA
<u>Representative:</u>
- Sonya Roopnauth, Director, Ministry of Finance

<u>Delegation members:</u>
- Dominique Ambrose, Economic and Financial Analyst II, Ministry of Finance
- Tash Van Doimen, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Onika Stellinburg, Stakeholder Management Coordinator, Ministry of the Presidency, Department of the Environment

JAMAICA
<u>Delegation members:</u>
- Hope Perkins, Senior Research Officer, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)
- Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica, (PIOJ)

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
<u>Representative:</u>
- Ghislaine Williams, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

SAINT LUCIA

Representative:
- Hon. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Minister with responsibility for External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and Public Service

Delegation member:
- Sarah Leon, Economist, Department of Economic Development

SAINT VINCENT GRENADINES

Representative:
- Janelle Hannaway-Horne, Economist II, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology

SURINAME

Delegation members:
- Lucill Starke Esajas, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jacqueline Warso, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative:
- Hon. Camille Robinson‑Regis, Minister of Planning and Development

Delegation members:
- Joanne Deoraj , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Marie Hinds, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Planning and Development
- Peter Mitchell, Director, Project Planning and Reconstruction, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Adriana Sharpe, Assistant Director, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Anesa Ali-Rodriguez, Foreign Service Officer IV (Ag.), Multilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- Nickesha Smith, Senior International Relations Officer, Multilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- Kennethia Douglas, Monitoring and Reporting Officer on SDGS, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Kasey Gordon, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Simone Rawlins, Senior Statistician, Population Social and Vital Statistics Division, Central Statistical Office
- Karissa Hackett, Project Officer, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Jael Daniel, Research Assistant, Ministry of Planning and Development

B. Associate members

ANGUILLA

Representative:
- Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin, Chief Statistician, Anguilla Statistics Department

ARUBA

Representative:
- Jocelyne Croes, Special Adviser on Multilateral Affairs, Chair of the National SDG Aruba Commission

Delegation member:
- Ghislaine Nicolaas, Policy Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
Representative:
- Najan Christopher, Director (Ag.), International Affairs Secretariat, Office of the Premier

CURAÇAO
Delegation member:
- Mitsui Maduro-Croes, Policy Coordinator, Ministry of General Affairs

GUADELOUPE
Representative:
- Emily Siousarram, Chief of Service, International Cooperation, Regional Council of Guadeloupe

MONTSERRAT
Representative:
- Kenya Lee, Director of Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
Representative:
- Sabrina Williams, Deputy Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics

Delegation member:
- Tarina Parker, Statistician, Department of Statistics

C. Other States Members of the United Nations

FIJI
Representative:
- Josefo Seniwaitui Navuku, Commissioner Central Division, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development

D. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs
- Adriana Alberti, Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
- Véronique Verbruggen, Senior Interregional Adviser on Governance and Public Administration Institution Building, Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
- Chae Gun Chung, Head of Office, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
- Keping Yao, Governance and Public Administration Expert, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
- Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, Small Island Developing States Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals
- Maria Stella Simpas, Senior Programme Management Assistant, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit (PMCDU), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government

Department of Global Communications (DGC)
- Amanda Laurence, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area

United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices (UNRCO)
- Pedro Henrique Souza, Regional Planning and M&E Specialist, UNSDG LAC/ Office of the Resident Coordinator to Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Mikiko Tanaka, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Guyana
- Marina Walter, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten
- Narissa Seegulam, United Nations Coordination Analyst, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten

E.   United Nations Funds and Programmes

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Alison Drayton, Director and Representative, UNFPA Caribbean

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Lyanna Harracksingh, Social Policy Officer, UNICEF Trinidad and Tobago

F.   United Nations Research and Training

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director
- Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion
- Estrella Merlos, Associate Director, CIFAL Global Network (Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders)
- Angela Montaño García, Project Coordinator, Social Development Programme, Division for People and Social Inclusion

G.   Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Reuben Robertson, FAO Representative, Trinidad and Tobago

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- Dr. Erica Wheeler, PAHO/WHO Representative, Trinidad and Tobago

H.   Other intergovernmental organizations

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- Tricia Barrow, Political Adviser

Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
- Devon Rowe, Executive Director

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development

The Commonwealth
Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN)
- Kurba-Marie Questelles, Training and Development Coordinator – Caribbean and the Americas

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Sungyeol Shin, Secondee, Institutions for Development Sector, Institutional Capacity of the State Division

I. Other non-governmental organizations

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- Anika Granderson, Senior Technical Officer

Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)
- Curmira Gulston, National Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago

J. Academic institutions

University of the West Indies (UWI)
- Gabrielle Hosein, Head, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director, Office of Development, UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Tricia Basdeo-Gobin, Outreach and Research Assistant, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI St. Augustine Campus

K. Other participants

- Dana Abu-Nasrah, Managing Consultant, Global Government, IBM
- Catalina Garcia, Global Director, Corporate Affairs, AB InBev
- Anand Munessar, Student, University of the West Indies: Institute of International Relations

L. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis
- María Ortiz Pérez, Programme Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Lucía Concha, Meetings Services Assistant

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Omar Bello, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Artie Dubrie, Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit

- Maharouf Oyolola, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Johann Brathwaite, Programme Officer, Programme Support Unit
- Michael Hendrickson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Willard Phillips, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Alexander Voccia, Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Amelia Bleeker, Associate Programme Management Officer, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Luciana Fontes de Meira, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Hidenobu Tokuda, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Denise Balgobin, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Tricia Blackman, Library Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Sita Inglefield, Personal Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director
- Blaine Marcano, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Iskuhi Mkrtchyan, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Machel Pantin, Economic Affairs Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Nyasha Skerrette, Economic Affairs Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Rossano Thompson, Computer Information Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Elizabeth Thorne, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Gina Marajh, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Shawn Campbell, Team Assistant, Administration Unit
- Jeniffer Sankar-Sooknarine, Team Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Arianna Ottley, Computer Information Assistant (on-the-job training)
- Deion Smith, Computer Information Assistant (on-the-job training*)

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THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Learning Conference
Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean Region

15 - 16 MAY 2019   PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROGRAMME

ANNEX II

DAY 1 ▶ 15 May 2019

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:15 - 8:30	Meet-up
Opening Plenary	
9:00 - 9:30	Inaugural Ceremony
9:30 - 9:45	Introduction of participants and group photo
Session 1: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean	
9:45 - 10:00	Status of the 2030 Agenda implementation in the Caribbean
10:00 - 10:15	Key messages from UN DESA's Symposium on "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States: Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships", Bahamas, 2017
10:15 - 10:30	Regional approaches to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway
10:30 - 11:45	National perspectives and experiences in localizing the 2030 Agenda Interactive Dialogue
11:45 - 12:00	Coffee Break
Session 2: Mobilizing public institutions for a holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda	
12:00 - 13:00	Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda **Interactive Learning session: "From single interest to shared purpose: The Whole-of-government Approach" (1st part)**
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:00	**Interactive Learning session: "From single interest to shared purpose: The Whole-of-Government Approach" (2nd part)**
Session 3: Policy coherence in Caribbean countries for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda	
15:00 - 15:30	The *2019 Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development* and its Sub-regional Consultations in support of policy coherence
15:30 - 15:45	Achieving policy coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: What does it take?

15:45 - 16:30	**Interactive Learning session: knowledge-sharing of innovative practices on ensuring policy coherence** National perspectives and experiences on development planning and policy coherence Presentations from Caribbean country representatives Financing for Development and Public Expenditure Review
16:30 - 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 - 17:45	**Interactive Learning session: National perspectives and experiences on development planning and policy coherence** Panel discussion among VNR Caribbean country representatives Interactive Dialogue

DAY 2

16 May 2019

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:15 - 8:30	Meet-up
Session 4: Strategic positioning of the sustainable development agendas in the Caribbean	
9:00 - 9:30	**Advancing Caribbean Sustainable Development.** Towards the High-level SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review: opportunities and challenges Chairperson: Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA Presenters: • Ms. Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN DESA • Ms. Artie Dubrie, Sustainable Development Officer, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean Moderator: Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
9:30 - 10:30	**Supporting policy coherence across Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Development agendas: The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee- Regional Coordinating Mechanism (CDCC-RCM) Revisited and Repositioned** Discussants: • Ms. Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat • Mr. Travis Sinckler, Senior Environment Officer, Ministry of the Environment and National Beautification, Barbados • Mr. Peter Mitchell, Director, Project Planning and Reconstruction, Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago **Interactive Dialogue**
10:30 - 10:45	**Coffee break**
Session 5: Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships for Sustainable Development	
10:45 - 11:00	**Institutionalizing stakeholder engagement** • Mr. Keping Yao, Governance and Public Administration Expert, DPIDG-UNPOG, UN DESA
11:00 - 11:30	**Interactive learning session: Strengthening institutions and creating an enabling environment for effective stakeholder engagement and people centered development** Moderator: Mr. Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR Discussants: • Dr. Ainka Granderson, Senior Technical Officer, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute • Ms. Curmira Gulston, National Coordinator, Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Trinidad and Tobago • Mrs. Catalina Garcia, Global Director Corporate Affairs, AB InBev **Interactive Dialogue**

Session 6: Effective monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress	
11:30 - 12:45	**Gaps, issues and challenges in the Caribbean for monitoring progress on the SDGs**
	Monitoring progress on the SDGs at the national level: the perspective of the National Statistical Offices
	National perspectives on monitoring progress on the SDGs and the SAMOA pathway in the Caribbean
	Moderator: Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
	Discussants: • Ms. Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin, Chief Statistician, Statistics Department, Anguilla • Ms. Joycelyne Croes, Special Advisor on Multilateral Affairs and Chair, National Aruba SDG Commission, Aruba • Ms. Najan Christopher, Director (Ag.), Office of the Premier, The British Virgin Islands • Mr. Josefo Seniwaitui Navuku, Commissioner Central Division, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Fiji • Ms. Hope Perkins, Research Officer, Statistical Institute of Jamaica • Ms. Lucill Starke Esajas, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Suriname • Ms. Sabrina Williams, Deputy Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics, Turks and Caicos Islands
12:45 - 13:30	**Interactive Dialogue** Moderator: Mr. Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR
	Discussants: • Dr. Kyra Paul, Social Development Planner, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment, Dominica • Ms. Marie Hinds, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago
13:30 - 14:30	**Lunch break**
Session 7: Capacity-building for sustainable development	
14:30 - 15:10	**Towards a global learning platform for SDG capacity-building** • Mr. Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR
	Global initiative on "Transformational Leadership and Equipping Public Servants with the capacities to implement the Sustainable Development Goals": working together with schools of public administration • Ms. Adriana Alberti, Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, DPIDG, UN DESA
	Transformational Leadership and Transforming Public Servants' Mindsets for the Sustainable Development Goals – *Asia-Pacific* TaskForce • Mr. Chae Gun Chung, Head, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), DPIDG, UN DESA
	Improving Data Literacy to advance Sustainable Development Implementation • Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

15:10 - 15:30	**Partnership Corner** Moderator: Ms. Adriana Alberti, Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, DPIDG, UN DESA Speakers: • Dr. Gabrielle Hosein, Head, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus • Ms. Kurba-Marie Questelles, Regional Training and Development Coordinator, Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network • Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director of Development, University of the West Indies
15:30 - 15:45	**Coffee break**
15:45 - 17:00	**Accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda** • Ms. Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica • H.E. Colin Murdoch, Senior Adviser, Office of the Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda **Lessons learned from three years of VNRs: Benefits, Main Building Blocks and maximizing the Impact of the VNRs** • Ms. Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DSDG, UN DESA • Ms. Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica **Identifying capacity development needs for conducting a reviews and accelerating implementation** • Ms. Dominique Ambrose-Charles, Economic and Financial Analyst II, Ministry of Finance, Guyana • Mrs. Adriana Sharpe, Assistant Director, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago
17:00 - 17:30	**Round-table: forward-looking discussion on strengthening institutional frameworks to advance the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean** Moderator: Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
Closing Plenary	
17:30 - 18:00	**Conclusions and recommendations** • ECLAC, UNITAR and UN DESA **Closing remarks** • Mr. Raul Garcia Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC • Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director, UNITAR • Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, UN DESA