

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

# ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



## Report of the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC





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

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Twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development  
and Cooperation Committee

Virtual meeting, 10 September 2020

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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

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## **A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee decided to forgo the reading of the Rapporteur's report at the end of the meeting, given the abridged nature of the session, which convened virtually. Instead, it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft report of the meeting for the consideration of the Rapporteur, before being circulated to the Committee members for their review. The meeting report would be considered final on 25 September 2020.
2. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work for the year 2021, including subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean, and expressed appreciation for the work carried out in the subregion during the 2018–2019 biennium in resolution 105(XXVIII), "Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean".
3. The Committee took note of the preparations underway for the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held online from 26 to 28 October 2020.
4. The Committee agreed that the twentieth meeting of its Monitoring Committee would be held in 2021. The exact date and venue would be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Secretariat of the CDCC.
5. In addition to resolution 105(XXVIII) mentioned above, the Committee adopted resolution 102(XXVIII), "Response to the impact of COVID-19"; resolution 103(XXVIII), "Support for disaster risk management in the Caribbean"; and resolution 104(XXVIII), "Repositioning the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee - Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM) as the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development".

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

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

6. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-eighth session virtually on 10 September 2020.

### **2. Attendance<sup>1</sup>**

7. The twenty-eighth session was attended by the following member States of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The following associate members also attended: Anguilla, Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.
8. Also attending were representatives of the following countries: Colombia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru and Spain.
9. In attendance from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives from the Development Coordination Office (DCO), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Department of Global Communications (DGC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex II for a full list of participants.

10. The following Funds and Programmes, and other Entities were also represented: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

12. Representatives of the following intergovernmental and regional organizations attended: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the European Union (EU).

13. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the University of the West Indies (UWI) and one special guest also attended the session.

### **3. Election of officers**

14. Based on prior consultation ahead of the session, the delegations elected to preside over the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-eighth session were as follows:

Chair:	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Vice-chairs:	The British Virgin Islands, Cuba and Dominica
Rapporteur:	Montserrat

### **4. Adoption of the agenda**

15. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. The Caribbean Outlook 2020: Exploring a creative and durable response to the COVID-19 challenge
3. Promoting sustained Caribbean growth and development: Regionalism and multilateralism revisited
4. Matters relating to the programme of work
5. Thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Consideration and adoption of resolutions
7. Date and venue of the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
8. Closure of the session

## **5. Procedural matters and organization of work**

16. The session was chaired by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

17. The Committee was reminded that the report of its meeting was an official document to be considered at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission being held in October. Given the advent of the coronavirus pandemic which necessitated a virtual convening of the meeting with reduced time for substantive deliberations, the Committee agreed that no summary of the meeting would be presented by the Rapporteur. In its stead, the Secretariat would consult with the Rapporteur and circulate a full draft report of the meeting to the member States and associate members on 18 September 2020 for questions and/or suggested amendments. It would be considered final on 25 September 2020 and prepared for presentation at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

18. Similarly, the Chair signaled his intent to abbreviate the time spent on consideration and adoption of the resolutions. He noted that the draft resolutions were circulated to all member States and associate members of the Committee ahead of the meeting for their review and transmission to the Secretariat of suggested changes. He therefore proposed to dispense with in-depth discussion of the draft resolutions on their adoption at the appropriate time.

19. The meeting adopted the preliminary programme, setting out the organization of work and procedural matters proposed by the Chair.

## **6. Documentation**

20. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Committee at its twenty-eighth session is attached as Annex I to the present report.

## **C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **Opening of the session (agenda item 1)**

21. At the opening of the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), statements were made by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service; and Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

22. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and Secretary of the CDCC, Diane Quarless, welcomed delegates to the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). As Mistress of Ceremonies, her first order of duty was to recognize and present to the meeting, the outgoing chair of the CDCC, the Honourable Allan Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service.

23. The Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, outgoing Chair of the CDCC, highlighted the fact that the meeting took place amid the greatest socioeconomic challenge of our time, when many real and adverse impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic were brought to the Caribbean's shores. He highlighted the daily challenges that Caribbean governments faced and for which they were charged with finding effective solutions. He noted that the subregion was quite resilient even in the face of significant economic

challenges and acknowledged and supported ECLAC's debt for climate change adaptation swap proposal. The Prime Minister however suggested that the technical work should continue to secure debt sustainability and to improve resilience. Finally, he congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on assuming the Chairmanship of the CDCC, pointing out that if there was ever a more critical time for the CDCC to achieve its potential, it was now. He expressed confidence that the Committee would continue its impressive legacy under the leadership of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

24. In response to the statement by the Honourable Allen Chastanet, the Mistress of Ceremonies thanked him again on behalf of the entire CDCC team, stating that she would like to convey to him and the entire representation of Saint Lucia who together led the CDCC, her deep appreciation for the vitality and the dynamism of the collaboration they enjoyed over the past two years. As the Director bid the outgoing Chair goodbye, she said that the CDCC and ECLAC looked forward to continued work with Saint Lucia going forward. Then passing the mantle to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Mistress of Ceremonies gave the floor to the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, as the Incoming Chair of the CDCC.

25. The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, paid tribute to the outgoing Chair and his team for their stewardship over the past two years, indicating that Prime Minister Chastanet had been a dynamic voice advocating for the Caribbean, most recently in championing strategic responses on the part of member States to address post COVID-19 impacts. He observed that the challenges facing the Caribbean during this period were complex, taking into account the impact of hurricanes that had devastated the region. He commended the CDCC for its efforts to search for innovative solutions for debt restructuring and in working with international finance institutions to promote greater support for middle-income countries. He also worked towards ensuring that the specific needs of the Caribbean were heard and meaningfully addressed. The Chair drew attention to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being of the countries of the Caribbean over the past six months, particularly its impact on health and social protection. He pointed to the subregion's initiatives to safeguard those who were vulnerable and displaced and to address the challenges of Caribbean economies characterized by mass unemployment, particularly in the tourism sector. The Minister applauded ECLAC for the work conducted during the past two years to advance Caribbean development, including efforts at strengthening capacity for statistical compilation and analysis and to identify solutions to address national, regional and global challenges. Finally, he emphasized the need for practical, workable solutions that were revolutionary and transformative, and pledged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commitment to leading such effort during his tenure.

26. The Director thanked Minister Gonsalves for his opening statement and for taking on the responsibilities as Chair of the CDCC. She also took this opportunity once again to formally welcome him, stating that he had indeed assumed this assignment as Chair of the CDCC in challenging times but that they remain confident that he is up to the task and looked forward to a very rich and productive collaboration. She then invited the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, to offer words of welcome.

27. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed her confidence that the incoming Chair of the CDCC would have a powerful voice in Caribbean affairs. She emphasized that the voice of the Caribbean must be heard, and that ECLAC, through its articulation of its Caribbean First Strategy, was in pursuit of such an agenda. She thanked the outgoing Chair of the CDCC for his leadership during his country's tenure. She also thanked the ECLAC staff in the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and at the ECLAC headquarters for their sterling efforts in organizing the meeting. She spoke to a new sense of urgency that was required for Caribbean to achieve sustainable development and new opportunities for growth and development, in addressing the widening inequalities presented by COVID-19.

28. She advanced five proposals to support Caribbean recovery in the wake of COVID-19: a debt relief initiative through a debt for climate change adaptation swap, which included the creation of a resilience fund; a debt service standstill and a change in international financial institutions' (IFI) eligibility criteria for granting concessional funding. She also advocated for state contingency bonds, especially with hurricane clauses; green and blue bonds; and liquidity support via the issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Those proposals were central to ECLAC's advocacy on behalf of the Caribbean to promote resource mobilization and debt relief for the countries of the subregion through the financing for development process that would culminate on 29 September during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, and in which she encouraged the active participation of all countries.

29. As countries confront the United Nations Decade of Action for Sustainable Development in the context of COVID-19, the Executive Secretary noted that a reassessment of the long-term development priorities of the Caribbean should be encouraged, giving greater attention to the strengthening of human capacity as a critical element for advancing the 2030 Agenda. She informed the meeting that the Caribbean Outlook 2020, which would be formally launched at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission in October, argued that the fundamental challenge of all Caribbean societies was to build and sustain a domestic capital sector which functioned to produce capital goods and services. Such a sector could help transform Caribbean societies. It was through this process of building capital that domestic technical capacity was developed, and good jobs made available. She highlighted the need for innovative approaches to be found to leverage the financial resources needed to accumulate both physical and high-quality human capital, and to develop the knowledge base to achieve sustainable development.

30. With respect to the pandemic, the Executive Secretary noted that COVID-19 had underscored the importance of finding durable solutions to long-standing issues in the Caribbean. She posited that the subregion was moving away from the status quo – it was not business as usual – and that there was the need for the international community to understand the issues faced by the Caribbean. She pointed to the importance of harnessing resources for dynamic and resilient recovery from the pandemic and for the long-term development in the subregion. Arguing that the vulnerability of the Caribbean was partly due to its susceptibility to climate change and extreme weather events, she acknowledged that other major challenges existed in terms of poverty and the subregion's debt burden. She pointed to the need to strengthen the domestic human and financial capital of Caribbean people, noting that that issue had been well articulated in the Caribbean Outlook 2020. While observing that the Caribbean had done much better than the rest of the region in dealing with the pandemic, she cautioned that much work was still to be done to ensure equity in access to education, gender equality and other social imperatives in the face of challenge posed by COVID-19. She committed ECLAC's continued support for Caribbean countries as they worked to achieve the sustainable development of the subregion.

**The Caribbean Outlook 2020: Exploring a creative and durable response to the COVID-19 challenge (agenda item 2)**

31. The Executive Secretary presented the essential elements of the ECLAC publication, "Caribbean Outlook 2.0: Forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development in the Caribbean post COVID-19". In providing the meeting with an overview of the study, she indicated that edition offered a comprehensive assessment of the most pressing development challenges facing the subregion in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, and proposed dynamic and creative problem-solving strategies to rekindle growth and advance recovery and resilience.

32. She underscored the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted the Caribbean at a time when it was already characterized by slow economic growth, social inequality and increased vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. She also indicated that while Caribbean governments had focused

mainly and effectively on the containment of the virus to preserve life and human capital, it had been at a great cost to their economies. The Executive Secretary noted that the debt burden for the Caribbean would increase due to the impacts of COVID-19. She highlighted additional economic impacts caused by the pandemic across the subregion, including a projected decline of GDP to -6.9 per cent - which was considerably lower than that of emerging and developing countries – as well as a substantial increase in fiscal deficits and unemployment rates.

33. She pointed out that fiscal stimulus packages for payroll support, business grants, unemployment benefits and public assistance to the informal sector had been estimated to US\$ 1.2 billion. This reflected the impacts on the tourism sector and agriculture, construction, hotels, and restaurants in the Caribbean, which had suffered greatly because of the near shutdown of air and cruise travel. She reminded the meeting that countries like Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago had also experienced significant declines in energy exports prices and consequently foreign reserves. This created negative long-run impacts on employment, foreign exchange earnings and fiscal revenues.

34. On the social side, the Executive Secretary observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in huge social costs on the economy. Specifically, she identified the setback to the education of the subregion's youth since they were out of school for most of the academic year of 2020. She pointed to the need for an upgrade of the ICT infrastructure in schools in light of the challenges presented by the pandemic. In this regard she underscored the need for more investment in ICT infrastructure. She also called for investment in more programmes to support women and youth to rebuild resilient and equitable economies and societies. She also highlighted agriculture and food security as areas of concern raised in the analysis, noting that the subregion imported as much as 80–90 per cent of its food from extraregional sources. She suggested that, ultimately, mitigating these impacts would mean that the Caribbean would require financial assistance from the international community.

35. Despite these challenges, the Executive Secretary offered encouragement to member States, noting that “what we do today, will have a positive response in the future”. She explained that the publication also identified several possible strategic actions which the subregion could pursue in order to recover from the effects of the pandemic and build resilience in the short, medium and long term. Some of the short-term recommendations included temporary income support to workers and labour training; support for business survival and improvement of digital skills for the future; strengthening of public-private clusters to facilitate tourism value chain upgrading; diversification of tourism activity; promotion of sustainability; and reduction of gender gaps. She touched on measures for building resilience in the medium term, which would focus on addressing the declining trend in productivity; closing gaps in broadband access and digital services; closing gender inequalities in the labour market and diversifying trade in the goods and services sector. She stated that the Caribbean's long-term priorities should be embedded in financing for development goals of resilience building, climate change, economic development and addressing the debt crisis. She also briefly highlighted other development priority areas for the subregion, including the upscaling of health-care systems; solid advancement in science, technology and innovation; investments in the domestic and regional tourism market; supplying more agriculture inputs to the tourism sector; and the creation of innovative but sustainable opportunities in the ocean economy.

### **Promoting sustained Caribbean growth and development: Regionalism and multilateralism revisited (agenda item 3)**

36. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies led the Committee's dialogue on strategies to promote recovery and resilience and to advance the sustainable development of the subregion with his keynote address. He referred to the need to grant urgent and special attention to the Caribbean, not as an exception but as a case for strengthening the multilateral approach. He explained that such strengthening should enhance the subregion's capacity to deal with multiple crises such as COVID-19,

climate change, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which were impacting the subregion, and called for special attention to be given to financing development in the Caribbean. He affirmed that the Caribbean had suffered the fundamental genocide of its indigenous people and had the longest colonial journey. He expressed the view that the Caribbean's experience as a colonized people was still being reflected in policy frameworks articulated at national level; that even though it was not the poorest part of the world, the Caribbean was still significantly a colonized place, as reflected in the first and second generations of nation building. The decolonization process was not complete; it was still in development.

37. The Vice-Chancellor posited several rhetorical questions. Was the Caribbean in a discursive cul-de-sac and had it failed? Had the Caribbean been a responsible member of the world economy and society? Had it been a responsible part of the international community? He distinguished the Caribbean as one of the most responsible parts of the world, and in the specific instance of COVID-19, noted the relative success with which many Caribbean countries had managed to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Part of this success he attributed to the efforts of the subregion's virologists, epidemiologists, health practitioners and volunteers who had helped governments to act swiftly with appropriate policies at the outbreak of the disease. He also recognized the Caribbean's relatively poor performance in the field of education, with only 15 per cent of youth exposed to higher education, compared to an average of 35 per cent in Latin America. He argued that the low level of enrolment in higher education compared to the rest of the hemisphere explained, at least in part, the sluggish economic performance of the subregion since 2008. He further called for the recognition of the background against which the subregion operated, in terms of the greatest incidence of disaster, NCDs, and severe impacts of climate change, and for concerted efforts to identify strategies for confronting these existential threats.

38. Although he commended the creation of a resilient development fund – in its nature a platform for development – he considered this a temporary solution and highlighted instead the need for a bigger framework to support it. He referenced the Colombo Plan for post-colonial development of the East Indies, pointing out that the Caribbean had never benefitted from a similar development plan from its colonizers. On that basis, he alluded to the importance of reparatory justice, considering the Caribbean as the area that had most suffered from the deepest forms of exploitation, and yet still needed to use debt as the instrument to fund its own development. He affirmed his belief that this case, backed by the principle of social justice as an emergent philosophical approach, was gaining ground in the world order, and the international community was aware of the need for special development efforts for the benefit of the Caribbean.

39. In concluding, the Vice-Chancellor informed the Committee of current efforts to establish an International Development Fund for the Caribbean, and felt that this fund – estimated at 50 billion at startup – reflected the moral response of the international community to the Caribbean's enduring legacy of colonization and exploitation by its colonizers. It was that Fund which he hoped would provide the basis for long-term development of the subregion. He called on ECLAC to affirm its role in advancing the Caribbean case, urging action in support of the subregion's effort to advance its own development. He cautioned that if the Caribbean failed to do so, it would face an ethical dilemma in so far as the ownership of its development trajectory was concerned.

#### Discussion:

40. The Chair thanked the Executive Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor for their contributions. He welcomed in particular the Vice-Chancellor's historical account of the Caribbean experience, noting the important context offered by of history and justice in the search by the subregion's leaders for solutions to the challenges their countries face. He suggested that the Caribbean found itself in a dilemma with respect to international development funding, and recalled that even after decolonization the United Nations considered the small island developing States (SIDS) undeserving of membership given their size and the danger of those economies being entrapped in a culture of dependency. He reaffirmed the importance of the subregion being given the space to determine its solutions on its own terms.

41. With respect to the Executive Secretary's presentation, the Chair highlighted statistical data presented in relation to the impact of COVID-19 which showed the subregion experiencing 50 per cent loss of growth, 40 per cent loss of revenues, mounting debt, and near collapse of the tourism sector when compared to other regions.

42. The representative of Cuba applauded ECLAC's recognition of the critical situation in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of the pandemic. She observed that the deceleration of economic growth in the hemisphere had been the worst in seven decades and felt that the pandemic required a multisectoral and multilevel approach. She noted that the applied criteria for evaluation of the entitlement of support for middle-income countries in their effort to pursue sustainable development and implementation of Agenda 2030 required differential treatment in financing for development. She referred to the need for the international mechanisms to facilitate development and reform of multilateral trade, highlighting that action and implementation must be articulated with countries, to promote concerted, integrated solutions. She suggested that ECLAC's thirty-eighth session of the Commission would be an opportunity to address solutions for Caribbean countries in facing the pandemic, and on that occasion her country would provide an extensive account of the programmes and initiatives Cuba implemented during the pandemic. She noted that in spite of the international situation, her country shared their professionals with the world, offering their medical professionals while respecting the sovereignty of other countries.

43. She emphasized that although the United States of America maintained their restrictions placed on Cuba – which were contrary to international law – Cuba continued to meet their sustainable development goal targets and remained committed to the Agenda 2030 implementation. Cuba further made use of its modest resources and good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation to promote Cuba's cooperation within the international health system. She thanked regional leaders for their courageous position over the last 25 years to support Cuba's demands for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, and reiterated the Government of Cuba's commitment to make its resources available to cooperate with other nations.

44. The Chair acknowledged on several occasions Cuba's scientific research, which he felt was noted and admired, particularly within CARICOM, and expressed his gratitude for Cuba's early and prompt expressions of solidarity in the earliest stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The representative of the British Virgin Islands also expressed his country's gratitude to Cuba for its support and solidarity with COVID-19 response and support for the subregion, particularly the British Overseas Territories.

45. The representative of the British Virgin Islands also affirmed his country's commitment to support the CDCC as Vice-Chair, extended congratulations to all the newly elected members of the Bureau of the CDCC and thanked the meeting for its confidence in selecting his country serve. He underscored that while all members of the CDCC share common challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the associate members had additional political and economic constraints in their pursuit of sustainable development. He noted that most of the associate members were eligible for limited development assistance, which COVID-19 had already diminished. He pointed out that, in most cases, they were blocked from accessing international climate funds, despite the fact that they were also affected by the same climate-driven extreme weather events suffered by their neighbours. He underscored that the tourism outlook for the associate members was bleak, and that expending more domestic fiscal resources would not be sustainable.

46. He stressed that associate members should use forums such as the CDCC to highlight their plight and remove barriers to developmental assistance. He signaled his country's willingness to co-host, with ECLAC, a Summit of the 15 associate members of ECLAC in 2021, noting that it would provide an opportunity to engage on particular challenges with regards to the 2030 Agenda, as well as to consider how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the respective constraints experienced by the

associate members. He thanked the Executive Secretary and the Director of the subregional headquarters for their consistent efforts to include the associate members in the work of the Commission.

#### **Matters relating to the programme of work (agenda item 4)**

47. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean delivered a presentation on the implementation of the programme of work for 2018–2019, updated the Committee on the ongoing work in 2020, and outlined plans for the work to be done in 2021. She informed the meeting that, effective 2020, ECLAC, in keeping with the decision of the United Nations Secretariat, had adopted a one-year programming cycle, which offered less lag time in identification, approval and implementation of programmatic priorities, thus ensuring that the Commission was better placed to respond in a more timely fashion to the pressing concerns of the region.

48. She further explained that the United Nations Headquarters understood the importance of strengthening its architecture to serve its membership. In this regard, the organization was reviewing and repositioning its work in the subregion to ensure that the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was addressing critical subregional issues. She emphasized its convening role, as in the case of the CDCC, which facilitated a collective airing of the opinions and positions of its membership. This she believed was one of ECLAC’s key comparative advantages. She reassured the Committee that ECLAC was working closely with the country teams and the Regional Coordinating Offices in a complementary manner, and that there would be significant effort to further strengthen the United Nations’ support for the subregion in the coming years.

49. The Director emphasized that the work of the office was structured to support the Caribbean’s implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also noted some of the changes made to accommodate the new one-year programming cycle resulted in products that were more focused, relevant, practical, responsive, and of reduced length, making them more reader friendly and allowing for their easier assimilation. She informed the meeting of a new output to be introduced called the “Caribbean in brief”, intended to strengthen the participation and collective advocacy of the Caribbean in global intergovernmental negotiations by offering uniformity in the information and preparation available to the delegations of all member States in the subregion. She indicated that it would assist in preparing Caribbean representatives for upcoming major global events – such as the Oceans Conference – by identifying and analyzing issues critical to the Caribbean, discussing those of broader global interest which might have bearing on Caribbean concerns, and suggesting strategic approaches which might assure potentially beneficial outcomes on key issues for the subregion.

50. In summarizing the outputs completed by the office during the previous biennium,<sup>2</sup> the Director covered several broad areas of work.

51. She spoke of the preparation of recurrent publications, some of which were flagship documents of ECLAC headquarters to which the subregional headquarters contributed. These included the Caribbean Outlook, which provided a visioning of the Caribbean developmental trajectory in light of the challenges faced by the subregion; the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, which provided an early indication of the anticipated performance of the Caribbean economies; the Economic Survey of the Caribbean, which was a more complete examination of the economic performance; and gender and development, in which the most recent issue examined the impact of climate change on women.

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<sup>2</sup> The full report of the implementation of the 2018-2019 programme of work may be found at: [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/2\\_2020\\_cdcc\\_28\\_implementation\\_of\\_the\\_2018-2019\\_programme\\_of\\_work.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/2_2020_cdcc_28_implementation_of_the_2018-2019_programme_of_work.pdf)

### **2018-2019**

52. She provided examples of the research and analysis done by the office during the 2018–2019 biennium, including a subregional assessment of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and research on the use of universal service funds to facilitate access to technology for persons with disabilities. She also spoke of the provision of integrated policy advice at the request of Caribbean governments, citing the completion of a gender policy and strategy for the Government of Saint Lucia and the completion of a new trade policy and strategy for Trinidad and Tobago.

53. She informed the meeting of technical assistance provided to Caribbean countries, including a damage and loss assessment conducted in the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, and support for an initiative in several Caribbean countries for Girls in ICT, which encouraged more girls to engage in ICT and innovation, and challenged them to design mobile phone apps as part of a national competition. She addressed the importance of the capacity-building work done by the office, touching on the office’s ongoing support to the countries in the implementation of the SDGs through multiple projects, and strengthening the capacity and increasing the readiness of the Caribbean for the 2020 round of censuses.

54. She spoke of convening meetings which engaged the entire subregion such as the Learning Conference, which was done in collaboration with UNITAR and DESA. The Conference was designed to build national capacity for implementation of the SDGs. Another such event was a Youth Symposium, which served as a platform to review of the state of Caribbean youth policies and programmes.

### **2020**

55. The Director then briefly explored the work of the office during 2020. She pointed to the research done to assess the multi-dimensional impact of COVID-19 on several sectors in the Caribbean, including agriculture, energy, social welfare, and tourism, which would facilitate better planning to bring the subregion’s development back on track post-COVID-19. She elaborated on single-use plastics in the Caribbean, noting that 24 countries had already enacted legislation on this matter. The plastics research explored the impact of this legislation on the private sector and the economies. She underscored the importance of the research on statistical disclosure control for censuses, where anonymization of census data was critical given the small populations of the countries of the subregion. She touched on research done in planning for resilience; disaster risk reduction and technology innovation; and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

56. The Director addressed the efforts of the office supporting capacity building across the subregion. She spoke of a workshop on sustainable social protection programmes planned for October in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which would examine the impact of COVID-19 on social protection systems. She highlighted the significant capacity-building efforts related to disaster risks and resilience building, as well as improved understanding by government personnel of the damage and loss assessment methodology and touched on the engagement of subregional organizations in those efforts. She referenced training on evidence-based policy planning as an integral part of supporting a more effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the Caribbean.

57. She informed the meeting that, at the request of member States, ECLAC provided technical cooperation and advisory services support. She noted the support being provided to the Government of Grenada in developing an independent sustainable development institute to facilitate better long-term planning; to the British Virgin Islands on population projections to allow the government to anticipate and proactively respond to the movement and growth of its population; the Saint Lucia’s youth and community synergy programme intended to empower inner city youth; and select members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in diversification of the tourism industry by targeting higher end niche markets, in this instance the yachting and cruise ship sector.

58. The Director emphasized the commitment of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in supporting the engagement and incorporation of the CDCC associate members in the work of the office. She extended her appreciation to the Premier of the British Virgin Islands for his invitation to host a summit of associate members in 2021 and looked forward to the participation of all the associate members in a rich discourse on a range of subregional development issues. She pointed to other areas of engagement of the associate members in the programme of work of the subregional headquarters, including research and analysis, SDG mainstreaming in national development planning and advisory services.

59. She reviewed several long-term projects on SDGs; strengthening response to climate change and natural disasters based on evidence-based policies; and strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders with respect to damage and loss assessment methodology. She noted that the projects were both United Nations and donor funded and emphasized the rich and productive ongoing collaboration with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC). She acknowledged and signaled her appreciation to the partners – both United Nations entities and subregional organizations – with whom the office collaborated and continue to collaborate in the delivery of products and services to the CDCC members.

60. She highlighted the efforts to strengthen the outreach of the organization's work, noting that a greater level of understanding of the work of the office could facilitate more targeted requests for support from CDCC members. She addressed the outreach tools employed by the office: the monthly Hummingbird Newsletter; the quarterly FOCUS Magazine; regional media; and social media accounts.

## **2021**

61. Looking ahead to 2021, the Director identified priority areas for focus including the education sector; financing implementation of the SDGs; institutional infrastructure in Caribbean economies; training on the Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM); the preparation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs); trade; selected SDGs and their implementation; and climate adaptation and mitigation. She informed the meeting that ECLAC intended to give continued focus to the impact of COVID-19 on the subregion; the impact of sargassum on oceans and tourism; debt swaps for climate adaptation; and the design of a trade policy framework. She emphasized that the debt swap initiative was a major focus of ECLAC for 2021.

62. She took the opportunity to thank the team at the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for their continued commitment to deliver the work programme and to respond to the needs of countries of the subregion.

## **Thirty-eighth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (agenda item 5)**

63. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission briefed the Committee on the plans and preparations for the hosting of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, scheduled from 26 to 28 October 2020, and for the first time to be held online. He outlined the provisional agenda for the meeting, noting special aspects particularly pertinent to the Caribbean. These included a Caribbean-focused session on recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and a segment to receive the report of the CDCC on its work since the thirty-seventh session of the Commission. He covered other agenda items, including a discussion on the economic and social impacts of the coronavirus disease in the region and on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a dialogue of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and high-level authorities on post-pandemic economic recovery, the presentation of a position document prepared by ECLAC, a report on the activities of the Commission in 2019 and the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for 2022, and two side events organized by the Government of Costa Rica focused on Afro-descendants and older persons, respectively. He encouraged delegates to make the necessary arrangements for their participation in the ECLAC session.

**Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 6)**

64. As agreed during the procedural matters and organization of work, the Chair brought four resolutions to the attention of the Committee for adoption. He reminded the Committee that, in the interest of time and given the unique nature of the meeting, the draft resolutions under consideration were circulated in advance for comments and noted that there were no suggestions or alterations offered. The members represented at the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee adopted the four resolutions contained in section D of the present report.

**Date and venue of the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (agenda item 7)**

65. In light of the prevailing uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed that the exact date and venue of the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be finalized at a later date by the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat of the CDCC.

**Closure of the session (agenda item 8)**

66. The Executive Secretary thanked the Chair for his dynamic moderation of the meeting, and Cuba for being instrumental in placing the "Caribbean First" on the ECLAC agenda. She expressed her gratitude to the Committee members for a truly rewarding session that she described as full of energy and purpose and felt inspired by the Caribbean's demonstration of unity to overcome their inherent challenges in the face of new adversities. She signaled her appreciation of the valuable messages provided by the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, during the Caribbean Development Roundtable, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies during the CDCC. She thanked the ECLAC staff both in the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and at the headquarters for their commitment and professionalism in delivering the range of support to member States, as well as in the organization of the meeting. She emphasized that ECLAC would continue to monitor the financing for development process and actively provide support to the Caribbean, with the hope that it could bring the much-needed liquidity to maintain livelihoods and preserve health, and reiterated ECLAC's commitment to continue advocating for a Debt Reduction and Resilience Fund for the Caribbean, as well as remaining engaged and providing full support to the efforts of the Caribbean to recover and return to a path of sustainable development.

67. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed many social issues, including unequal access to education and growing citizen insecurity, which would require short-term social measures to be linked to medium-term plans and strategies. She observed that the post-COVID-19 economy would require upgrading the tourism sector to include a focus on safety and health, and that the post-COVID-19 world would also be more digitized, which would create the need for sustained investment in knowledge generation and innovation. She suggested that, to bridge the digital divide, countries would need to support access to all forms of communication and information technology and invest in e-governance as a resilient strategy. The Executive Secretary also underscored that Caribbean countries would need to secure access to long-term, low-cost development finance to address economic diversification and restructuring, while battling climate change and preparing for possible future health pandemics.

68. The Chair of the CDCC thanked the participants and the Secretariat for their involvement in making the meeting a success. He urged the Committee members to continue working together to realize the subregion's development aspirations, and to strengthen regional engagement to facilitate building back better. He then formally declared the twenty-eighth session of the CDCC closed.

**D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

**102 (XXVIII) RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

*The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,*

*Noting* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant negative socioeconomic impact on the countries of the Caribbean,

*Acknowledging* that COVID-19 has exacerbated existing challenges faced by the heavily indebted middle-income countries of the subregion already suffering from high exposure to natural disasters and climate change,

*Deeply concerned* that the economic growth forecast for the Caribbean in 2020 has likely been arrested by the impact of COVID-19,

*Concerned also* that the near total contraction of major economic sectors, including tourism and related services, and a decline in oil prices have resulted in increased debt and liquidity strain on Caribbean economies, making it difficult for policymakers to employ necessary countercyclical measures to reduce further uncertainty, and undermining their capacity to respond effectively to the impact of COVID-19,

*Concerned further* that the global economic downturn triggered by the pandemic could have a lasting impact on the increasing vulnerability of Caribbean countries, given their dependence on external markets for exports and imports,

*Emphasizing* that the acute liquidity and debt challenges facing the Caribbean are not the result of fiscal mismanagement but instead have been influenced over time by a series of exogenous shocks from such factors as the global financial crisis, natural disasters and climate change, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Recognizing* that despite financial constraints and limited access to low-cost long-term development finance, the subregion is making every effort to control the spread of the virus and to strengthen its resilience to health and other related shocks, while promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing also* that the additional challenges imposed by COVID-19 require innovative thinking and strategies to address them in a sustainable manner,

*Underscoring* the need to grant special dispensation to the middle-income countries of the Caribbean, with regard to the actions of credit rating agencies as well as access to debt relief and concessional resources,

*Taking note of* the ongoing United Nations dialogue on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, intended to bring financial relief to countries in deep economic distress,

1. *Encourages* all member States and associate members to embrace as a matter of priority strategies to reduce vulnerability to negative external shocks, particularly those exacerbated by COVID-19, by:

- (a) Undertaking investment in resilient health systems and supporting the establishment of early warning health protocols, at the regional level, to address future pandemics;
  - (b) Investing in skills to promote economic diversification, improve productivity, create decent jobs and reduce poverty and inequality;
  - (c) Improving access to social safety nets and reducing citizen insecurity;
  - (d) Increasing investment in broadband infrastructure to allow for interconnection among all communities in the Caribbean, so as to encourage e-governance and reduce the inequity in access to education for all, including persons with disabilities;
  - (e) Working to reduce the historical inequality among schools while providing high quality vocational training for those less academically inclined;
  - (f) Placing greater focus on knowledge generation, including science and technology across all communities to stimulate innovation and improve efficiency and competitiveness across the Caribbean;
  - (g) Reimagining the tourism sector through product upgrading and diversification;
  - (h) Exploring the sustainable exploitation of oceans and investing in capability to generate non-renewable energy resources for sustainable development;
2. *Welcomes* the leadership of the Commission in the High-level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, which was convened by the Governments of Canada and Jamaica and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
  3. *Also welcomes* the proposals advanced by the Commission for immediately remedying the liquidity challenge facing Caribbean countries, which include the reallocation of idle special drawing rights through regional development banks; the institution of debt for climate adaptation swaps; and the creation of regional resilience funds;
  4. *Expresses appreciation* to the Commission for also proposing the establishment of a new sovereign debt restructuring architecture which would allow middle-income countries in the region facing financial distress or approaching default because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce and renegotiate their outstanding debts with creditors to improve liquidity;
  5. *Calls upon* the international community through the proceedings of the High-level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond and other forums to help address the unique vulnerabilities of Caribbean member States through debt reduction and the establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund to secure low-cost long-term finance for urgent resilience-building;
  6. *Requests* the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to support subregional advocacy for the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses as part of new borrowing arrangements for Caribbean countries.

### 103 (XXVIII) SUPPORT FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

*The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,*

*Recalling* resolutions 58(XIX) of 2002, 66(XXI) of 2006, 81(XXV) of 2014 and 98(XXVII) of 2018 which called on the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to support countries of the subregion in disaster risk management, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building,

*Recalling also* that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>3</sup> reaffirms that “small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities”, and that “climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability”,<sup>4</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that Caribbean countries are among the world’s most vulnerable to the impact of extreme weather events and experience some the highest rates of damage and loss relative to their gross domestic product,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the continued support of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to member countries in the conduct of damage and loss assessments<sup>5</sup> following natural disasters, most recently the assessment done for the Bahamas following the passage of Hurricane Dorian during September 2019,

*Noting with concern* in this regard the recent passage of Hurricane Nana that impacted Belize on 3 September 2020,

*Acknowledging* the need to give more specific attention to risk reduction, preparedness and resilience-building in response to the economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of the Caribbean small island developing States, particularly in the context of climate change,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters which recommends a collaborative and coordinated approach within and across sectors in implementing five priorities for action: Governance and Policies, Awareness Raising and Capacity Building, Data Management, Common Infrastructure and Services, and Resource Mobilization,<sup>6</sup>

*Recognizing* that sustainable development objectives, including economic growth, the reduction of poverty and inequality, and the promotion of sustainable cities and settlements, are inextricably linked to the achievement of disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction,

*Recognizing also* that with the advent of COVID-19, Caribbean countries will need to integrate specific health, sanitary and safety control measures into their disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction management plans to mitigate the spread of the disease,

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<sup>3</sup> Endorsed by the General Assembly on 14 November 2014.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, paragraph 31.

<sup>5</sup> The damage and loss assessment (DaLA) methodology was developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in 1972.

<sup>6</sup> See [online] [https://ggim.un.org/documents/UN-GGIM\\_Strategic\\_Framework\\_Disasters\\_final.pdf](https://ggim.un.org/documents/UN-GGIM_Strategic_Framework_Disasters_final.pdf).

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the continued support provided by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean as the focal point for disaster risk management, disaster risk reduction and damage and loss assessment in the Caribbean;
2. *Requests* the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to:
  - (a) Continue to assist member countries with the conduct of damage and loss assessments following disaster events in the Caribbean;
  - (b) Provide continued support, including through institutional strengthening, training and capacity building, to member countries in disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction policy development, and in mainstreaming these policies into their national sustainable development plans;
3. *Encourages* the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to pursue further research, science, technology exploration and innovation in disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction in collaboration with other regional and international partners, with emphasis on South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation;
4. *Calls upon* the Commission to provide greater attention and support to disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean, including through resilience building and disaster assessment, and that this be accordingly reflected in the programme of work of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to ensure more effective response to the specific needs of Caribbean small island developing States, particularly in the context of climate change.

**104 (XXVIII): REPOSITIONING THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE - REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS THE CARIBBEAN SIDS MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,*

*Recalling* its resolution 65(XXI) of 2006, which agreed to the establishment of a regional coordinating mechanism to support member countries in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

*Noting* paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 73/228 of 20 December 2018, which urged the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes,

*Bearing in mind* that the Caribbean regional mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway<sup>1</sup> called for the revitalization of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, with a view to advancing political advocacy on small island developing States issues at the regional level, facilitating SIDS-SIDS cooperation and spearheading implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in a coherent and effective manner,

*Recalling* its resolution 100(XXVII) of 2018 on ensuring synergy in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action in the Caribbean Subregion,<sup>2</sup> reaffirming commitment to fully operationalizing the Regional Coordinating Mechanism and with a view to monitoring and supporting its role in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant development platforms,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing*, in this regard, that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup> was established as a regional mechanism to monitor and measure progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* that at its nineteenth meeting, the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee underscored the continued relevance of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism in supporting the sustainable development priorities of the members and associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

*Recalling also* that at its nineteenth meeting, the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee called for the revitalization and reshaping of the Regional

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<sup>1</sup> See San Pedro Declaration [online] [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20630San\\_Pedro\\_Declaration\\_final\\_version.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20630San_Pedro_Declaration_final_version.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See the report of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/CAR/2018/2) [online] [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/lcar2018\\_02.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/lcar2018_02.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<sup>4</sup> See [online] <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/2030-agenda-sustainable-development/forum-countries-latin-america-and-caribbean-sustainable-development-and-regional-follow-2030-agenda>.

Coordinating Mechanism and the need to incorporate the unique features of Caribbean small island developing States, as countries proceeded with mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their national development,<sup>5</sup>

*Acknowledging* the important role that the Regional Coordinating Mechanism repositioned as the Caribbean SIDS mechanism for sustainable development could play in ensuring comprehensive monitoring and reporting to the Forum on Caribbean implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recalling* that among the important conclusions which emerged from the Caribbean regional workshop of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordinating Mechanism was its repositioning as the Caribbean SIDS mechanism for sustainable development,<sup>6</sup>

*Recognizing* that the proposed repositioning of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism as the Caribbean SIDS mechanism for sustainable development is a relevant subregional resource providing a platform to prioritize and accelerate the implementation of Caribbean small island developing States sustainable development agendas,

1. *Approves* the renaming of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordinating Mechanism as the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development;

2. *Extends its approval* for the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development to be given an expanded mandate, scope and function to serve as a principal subregional mechanism for monitoring and supporting sustainable development implementation in the Caribbean small island developing States;

3. *Agrees* that the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development will serve in supporting the Caribbean's participation in, and reporting to, the annual Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

4. *Also agrees* that the functions of the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development will include fostering linkages with intergovernmental bodies, United Nations agencies, and other developmental partners; and facilitating the sharing of lessons learned and best practice through SIDS-SIDS, South-South and triangular cooperation and other means;

5. *Calls upon* the secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development is positioned as an integral part of the programme of work of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean;

6. *Requests* the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to submit for the consideration of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee recommendations for the effective operation of the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>5</sup> See the report of the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/CAR/2019/6).

<sup>6</sup> See "Proposal for a revitalized Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee – Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM): repositioning CDCC-RCM as the mechanism for sustainable development in Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS)" (LC/CAR/2019/25).

**105 (XXVIII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,*

*Recalling* resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

*Recalling also* resolution 29(XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55(XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

*Recalling further* resolution 75(XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

*Bearing in mind* resolution 85(XXV) of 2014 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, in which it expressed its support for the request to ensure greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

*Considering* resolution 95(XXVI) of 2016 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the efforts already being made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

*Affirming* the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Taking into account* the special development challenges faced by countries in the Caribbean subregion, including their small size; open, narrow and undiversified economies; fragile ecosystems; and other inherent vulnerabilities, and underscoring the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the small island developing States development agenda to national development planning processes, as integral elements of the response to those challenges,

*Bearing in mind* the ongoing process of review of the development architecture of the United Nations development system, particularly the effort to strengthen the multi-country offices of the Caribbean,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held on 17 May 2019;<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> LC/CAR/2019/6.

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the secretariat for the work carried out under subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean during the 2018–2019 biennium, and particularly for the results achieved and impact derived from its implementation;

3. *Endorses* the Proposed programme of work for 2021, subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean;<sup>14</sup>

4. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic, environment and statistical reports carried out by the Commission;

5. *Underscores* the importance of the role of the regional economic commission in providing substantive support to the SIDS agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda and related development platforms, particularly through its capacity for comprehensive multidisciplinary research, statistical analysis and evidence-based policy advice;

6. *Requests* the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the overall programme of work of the Commission under subprogramme 12, and to report on progress in this regard to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-ninth session.

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<sup>14</sup> LC/CDCC.28/DDR/3.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representative:

- Hon. Everly Paul ‘Chet’ Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade

Delegation members:

- Hon. Lennox Weston, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance
- H.E. Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations

**BAHAMAS**Delegation members:

- Anthony Cartwright, Director, Ministry of Finance
- Cherran Obrien, Director, Economics, Ministry of Finance
- Christine Thompson, Deputy Director, Economics, Ministry of Finance
- Wendy Craig, Fiscal Advisor, Ministry of Finance
- Lynsey Ward, Fiscal Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Rolanda Davis, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**BARBADOS**Representative:

- Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister

**BELIZE**Representative:

- Orla Kantun Coleman, Director of International Affairs (Cooperation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**CUBA**Representative:

- Hon. Déborah Rivas Saavedra, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

Delegation members:

- Carlos Fidel Martín Rodríguez, Director, Directorate of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment
- Solangel Lucila Santana Viaña, Specialist, Directorate of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

**DOMINICA**Representative:

- Hon. Kenneth Darroux, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations

Delegation members:

- Hon. Edward Registe, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations
- Kamila Bell, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations

- Melinda Seraphin, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### Delegation members:

- Manuel Díaz Franjul, Director, Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ramón Grullón, Adviser to the Vice Minister, Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **GRENADA**

### Delegation member:

- H.E. Keisha A. McGuire, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

## **GUYANA**

### Representative:

- Hon. Hugh Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

### Delegation members:

- Charlene Phoenix, Director, Department of the Americas
- Forbes July, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Denise De Souza, Head, Multilateral Department, Ministry of Finance
- Debra Roberts, Economist/Technical Assistant, Ministry of Finance

## **HAITI**

### Delegation members:

- Leonne F.C. Prophete, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation
- Yves Robert Jean, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation
- Robès Pierre, Conseiller Technique; Chargé de mission à la Direction Générale, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

## **JAMAICA**

### Delegation members:

- Amb. A'Dale Robinson, Director, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Amb. Alison Stone Roofe, Under Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Oronde Small, Director, Debt Strategy and Analysis, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
- Shanika Campbell, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Sherdon Baugh, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)

## **SAINT LUCIA**

### Representative:

- Hon. Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service

### Delegation members:

- H.E. Cosmos Richardson, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations
- Kimberly Louis, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**Representative:

- Hon. Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, and Information Technology, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Delegation members:

- Recardo Frederick, Director of Planning, Economic Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology
- Giselle Myers, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology
- Westford Joseph, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce
- Marsholl Barnwell, Foreign Service Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce
- Shafique Sam, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce

**SURINAME**Representative:

- Hon. Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation

Delegation members:

- Miriam Mac Intosh, Permanent Secretary, Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
- Gladys Abdoelsaboer, Head of the Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
- Annelies Agwense, Desk Officer, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
- Chermain Pansa, Desk Officer, Multilateral Development Cooperation, Sub-Directorate for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation

**B. Associate members****ANGUILLA**Representative:

- Hon. Ellis Webster, Premier

**ARUBA**Delegation members:

- Jocelyne Croes, Special Advisor Multilateral Affairs, Chair of the National SDG Commission
- Ghislaine Nicolaas, Policy Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs

**BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**Representative:

- Hon. Andrew A. Fahie, Premier and Minister of Finance

Delegation members:

- Carolyn O'Neal-Morton, Permanent Secretary, Premier's Office
- Elvia Smith-Maduro, Deputy Secretary, Premier's Office
- Glenroy A. Forbes, Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Najan Christopher, Director of the International Affairs Secretariat
- Eliezer 'Benito' Wheatley, Special Envoy of the Premier

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**Representative:

- Hon. Roy McTaggart, Minister of Finance and Economic Development

Delegation members:

- Samuel Rose, Cabinet Secretary, Cayman Islands Government
- Ralston Henry, Senior Economist, Economics and Statistics Office

**CURAÇAO**Delegation members:

- Geovana Maria, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance
- Arelys Meulens, Policy Advisor, Directorate of Foreign Relations
- Shayna Royer, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance

**MONTserrat**Representative:

- Debra Lewis, Director, External Affairs, Office of the Premier

Delegation members:

- Kenya Lee, Director, Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
- Meridith Lynch, Executive Secretary to the Premier

**PUERTO RICO**Delegation members:

- Ángel Rivera, Acting, Director Economic Analysis and Business Intelligence Office, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)
- Manuel Laboy-Rivera, Secretary, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)
- Ángeles Valle, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)
- Hilda Yunén, Communications Officer, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)
- Noel Pérez, Executive Assistant, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)
- María V. Ruiz, Executive Assistant, Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC)

**UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**Delegation member:

- Kirk Callwood, Commissioner, Department of Finance

**C. Observers****COLOMBIA**

- H.E. Martha Cecilia Pinilla-Perdomo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Trinidad and Tobago
- Heidi Ariadne Cortes Acosta, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Trinidad and Tobago

**GERMANY**

- H.E. Ute König, Ambassador, German Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago

**JAPAN**

- Nobuaki Hanawa, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago
- Katsuya Sato, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago

**THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

- Linley Geeban, Trade Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Trinidad and Tobago

**PERU**

- Walter Zumaran, Third Secretary

**THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

- Baltasar Fernández Melgosa, Deputy Head of Mission / Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

**D. United Nations Secretariat****Development Coordination Office (DCO)**

- Didier Trebucq, Resident Coordinator to Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
- Marina Walter, Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten
- Elisabeth Diaz, Senior Regional Coordination Officer, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Yolanda Durant-Mcklmon, Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Partnerships and Programme Officer
- Raymond Prasad, Economist, Development Coordination Officer, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**

- David Johnson, SIDS Unit
- Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer

**Department of Global Communications (DGC)**

- Amanda Laurence, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

- Bo Shakira Harris, Programme Management Officer, Regional Programme Office, Panama

**Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

- Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme

**E. United Nations Funds and Programmes****United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- Andre Richards, Policy/Programme Analyst, UNFPA Sub-regional Office of the Caribbean

**F. Specialized agencies****Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- John R. Ford, Strategic Analyst, FAO country office - Guyana

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

- Dr. Erica Wheeler, PAHO/WHO Representative, Trinidad and Tobago

## **G. Other Entities and Related Organizations of the United Nations**

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

- Saul Perez Pijuan, Section Head-Technical Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean

## **H. Organizations**

### **Association of Caribbean States (ACS)**

- June Soomer, Secretary-General
- Ingrid Jacobs, Special Fund Manager

### **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

- Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, Trade and Economic Integration
- Desiree Field-Ridley, Adviser, CARICOM Single Market and Economy
- Evelyn Wayne, Director, Economic Policy and Development
- Cecila Melville, Deputy Programme Manager, Economic Development Policy Tax Administration and Research
- Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development
- Kareem Sabir, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development

### **CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)**

- Rodinald Soomer, Chief Executive Officer

### **Commonwealth Secretariat**

- Rosemarie Cadogan, Legal Adviser

### **Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)**

- Gianpiero Leoncini, Representative for Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados
- Reinier Schliesser, Country Economist for Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados

### **European Union (EU)**

- Luis Maia, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM
- Janet Coto Moreno, Head of the Economic and Social Section, Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM

## **I. Other entities and institutions**

### **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)**

- Sharon Weber, Governance Adviser, British High Commission, Kingston, Jamaica

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

- Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies
- Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director – Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures, UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago
- Patricia Northover, Senior Fellow (Development Economics), Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica

UWI students:

- Albertha Daniel, Student, UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica
- Camille Irving, M. Sc. Development Studies Student, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica
- Alexandria Rhooms, M.Sc. Development Studies Student, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica

**J. Special guests**

- Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretary-General designate of the Association of Caribbean States

**K. Secretariat****Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis
- Luis Yáñez, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission
- Guido Camú, Chief, Public Information Unit
- Romain Zivy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Jimena Arias Feijoó, Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission

**ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Artie Dubrie, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Sheldon Mc Lean, Coordinator, Economic Development Unit
- Jeanette Song'e, Administrative Officer, Administration 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
- Amelia Bleeker, Associate Programme Management Officer, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Hidenobu Tokuda, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit

Annex II**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

LC/CDCC.28/1	Provisional agenda
LC/CDCC.28/2	Annotated provisional agenda
-	Provisional programme
LC/CDCC.28/DDR/1	Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019
LC/CDCC.28/DDR/2	Programme of work for 2020
LC/CDCC.28/DDR/3	Proposed programme of work for 2021
-	Resolutions 102(XXVIII) – 105(XXVIII)



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