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Paramaribo, 14 October 2022

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2022

Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean¹

¹ From the *Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022* (LC/SES.38/8), adopted at thirty-eight session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Objective

The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the sustainable development processes in the member States of the Caribbean, by building their institutional and technical capacities to improve their resilience to economic, social and climatic impacts, with expanded cooperation within Latin America and wider engagement with other partners.

Presentation

The countries of the Caribbean face significant challenges that compromise their ability to achieve sustainable development. These include high debt levels which give rise to weak economic growth; finance constraints; declining export capacity; high unemployment (particularly among women and youth); and high vulnerability to natural events and environmental threats. The fundamental challenge is therefore building resilience to surmount these obstacles.

Climate change, rising sea levels and exposure to extreme weather events, particularly tropical cyclones, all continue to present existential challenges to the Caribbean countries. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of these small states, given their high exposure to external factors and the undiversified nature of their economies. Measures implemented to curb the spread of the virus have caused significant financial stress to countries already burdened with high debt and debt servicing levels in the subregion. Urgent injection of liquidity is therefore needed to ease the pressure on already narrowed fiscal space, to assist the countries in building resilience to both COVID-19 and the continuing threat of climate related events. The debt swap for climate change adaptation initiative proposed by ECLAC responds to this need, by converting the subregion's debt into a source of investment in resilience, while at the same time reinvigorating growth. The role of technology in the subregion's development is critical and strategies to develop domestic technical capacity will be prioritized. Strengthening of ICT infrastructure has assumed greater importance given the increased reliance on this technology for governance, communication and education at a time when movement has been sharply restricted. The trade policies of member States should be modified to support intraregional and extra-regional trade and investment. Attention will also be given to strategies to assist in the recovery of the tourism industry of the subregion, through innovative approaches. Effort will also be made to harness the skills and resources of the Caribbean diaspora to assist in the economic recovery of the subregion. Economic diversification will be more aggressively pursued through further exploration of COVID-proof business opportunities in the creative industries. Greater attention will also be paid to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, addressing increasing concerns at gender-based violence and defending the right to decent work.

With respect to the lack of adequate and timely data, priority areas include strengthening infrastructure and expanding capacity for data collection and analysis with regard to data on the environment, the pervasive effect of COVID-19 across all sectors, climate impacts and the informal economy, and the production of gender-disaggregated data, among others. Strategies for the effective use of ICT in the design of public policies and the provision of public services that facilitate effective response to and recovery from the pandemic, especially for persons with disabilities, will also be pursued.

Subregional and national actions will continue to be framed by global platforms that advance sustainable development in SIDS, within the wider context of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, with a view to ensuring that activities under the subprogramme continue to support sustainable growth and development in the subregion for both members and associate members of ECLAC. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the institutional infrastructure of Caribbean States, with a view to enhancing governance and integrated policy planning for attaining the SDGs. Appropriate elements of COVID-19 response will be integrated into all activities as deemed necessary.

Strategy

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme, which will focus on the following subject areas: 1. Caribbean development and cooperation; 2. Economic development and integration; 3. ICT for development; 4. Social development; 5. Statistics; and 6. Climate change, SIDS and disaster risk management. Therefore, the main contributions to the 2030 Agenda under this subprogramme will be related to SDGs 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The subregional headquarters will provide technical assistance and advisory services to member States, upon request, and conduct training activities, seminars and workshops for knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. It will work closely with Caribbean development partners — including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) institutions, other subregional intergovernmental organizations and international donor institutions— and in coordination with the United Nations country teams in the Caribbean to inform policymaking in the subregion, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services.

The strategy is built on five pillars. First, activities under the subprogramme will be implemented in close cooperation with the substantive divisions and other subregional and national offices of ECLAC, in the context of the “Caribbean first” strategy launched by the Commission, and in collaboration with the wider United Nations development system. Second, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the Commission will ensure that the work remains relevant to the subregion’s needs. Third, the activities will facilitate the Caribbean’s engagement in the follow-up to global conferences, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Strategies for COVID-19 response and recovery will be assimilated in these development platforms. Fourth, the multidisciplinary response to the development needs of the countries will include: (i) promoting sound fiscal management, trade and industry development; (ii) promoting wider application of ICT for development; (iii) strengthening the institutional infrastructure and refining the monitoring mechanisms for more effective oversight of SDG implementation; (iv) emphasizing the role of social development, including mainstreaming gender considerations throughout the work under the subprogramme; (v) supporting the integration of the environment, natural resources management and disaster risk reduction measures into national planning; and (vi) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries. Special attention will be given to supporting country efforts to secure access to both short- and longer-term resources consistent with their vulnerable status, to support the recovery of Caribbean economies post COVID-19. Finally, and fulfilling its think tank and thought leadership role, the Commission, through the subregional headquarters, will continue to undertake research and analysis and to promote strategies for sustainable development, with special attention given to COVID-19 response and recovery. The visibility of its work will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme.

The main beneficiaries under the subprogramme will be government authorities and officials from the region’s countries, civil society entities, academic and private sector institutions, and subregional entities.

Activities

Subject area 12.1: Caribbean development and cooperation

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Intergovernmental meetings

A meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

2. Recurrent publications

An issue of the *Caribbean Outlook*.

3. Other substantive activitiesBooklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

- (i) Four issues of the *FOCUS* magazine.
- (ii) Twelve issues of *The Hummingbird* newsletter covering matters such as ICT for development and economic, environmental, social and statistical development.
- (iii) One issue of the *Caribbean InBrief* covering matters such as ICT for development and economic, environmental, social and statistical development.

4. Intermediate activities

Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on issues related to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Subject area 12.2: Economic development and integration1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

- (i) A meeting of experts on issues relating to industrial development in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A meeting of experts to discuss issues related to a selected area of trade and sustainable development in the Caribbean.

2. Recurrent publications

- (i) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2022*.
- (ii) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2022*.

3. Non-recurrent publications

- (i) A study on issues relating to industrial development in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A study on a selected area of trade and sustainable development in the Caribbean.

4. Other substantive activitiesBooklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

A policy brief on economic and trade issues in the Caribbean.

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on macroeconomic policies and regional integration.

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and regional bodies to develop or support training activities in areas relating to trade policy frameworks.

7. Intermediate activities

Contributions to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*. The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: ICT for development1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of experts to discuss a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean.

2. Recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean.

3. Other substantive activitiesBooklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

A policy brief on a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on ICT for development.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and regional bodies to develop or support training activities in areas relating to selected ICT for development issues in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

Provision of inputs for ECLAC databases on ICT indicators, including integrated follow-up to the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC).

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

Subject area 12.4: Social development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of experts to examine selected social development issues in the Caribbean.

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study to examine selected social development issues in the Caribbean.

3. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

A policy brief on a particular aspect of social development in the Caribbean.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on statistics and statistical development, gender equality, social and population development in the subregion.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on a particular aspect of social development in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

(i) Inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America* and the annual report of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

(ii) Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

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

Subject area 12.5: Statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of experts on a selected area of statistics for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of statistics for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

3. Other substantive activitiesTechnical materials

Updating and maintenance of databases on selected statistical indicators.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on statistics and statistical development in the subregion.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies to develop training activities related to the finalization and online dissemination of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

Inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the annual report of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

Subject area 12.6: Climate change, SIDS and disaster risk management1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting of experts on a selected issue related to the environment, science, technology and innovation in the Caribbean.

(ii) A meeting of experts to examine issues related to SIDS and the SDGs in the Caribbean.

2. Recurrent publications

A study to examine issues related to SIDS and the SDGs in the Caribbean.

3. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected issue related to the environment, science, technology and innovation in the Caribbean.

4. Other substantive activitiesTechnical materials

Updating and maintenance of the database on the economic, social and environmental costs of extreme natural disasters in the subregion's countries.

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

A policy brief on a selected area of environmental development, disaster risk management or resilience building in the Caribbean.

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of environmental development, disaster-preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on an environmental development, disaster risk management or resilience building issue relevant to the Caribbean.

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

Annex I

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 12

General Assembly resolutions

- 67/215 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 67/218 Promoting transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies
- 68/304 Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes
- 70/125 Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 70/126 Promoting social integration through social inclusion
- 70/128 Cooperatives in social development
- 70/132 Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
- 70/133 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 70/189 Financial inclusion for sustainable development
- 70/204 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 70/213 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 70/214 Culture and sustainable development
- 70/263 Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration
- 70/296 Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration
- 71/313 Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 71/329 Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community
- 72/146 Policies and programmes involving youth
- 73/2 Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
- 73/104 Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non- Self- Governing Territories
- 73/123 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- 73/141 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
- 73/142 Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities
- 73/143 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
- 73/148 Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment
- 73/218 Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
- 73/219 International trade and development

- 73/221 External debt sustainability and development
- 73/223 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
- 73/225 Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
- 73/226 Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028
- 73/227 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 73/228 Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- 73/229 Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations
- 73/231 Disaster risk reduction
- 73/232 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- 73/236 Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 73/239 Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- 73/241 International migration and development
- 73/245 Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection
- 73/254 Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
- 73/292 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

- 2014/5 Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
- 2014/11 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 2014/32 Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2015/10 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme
- 2017/7 Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2017/12 Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2017/21 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2017/22 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 2017/29 Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session
- 2018/3 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
- 2018/5 Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

- 2018/6 Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
- 2018/18 Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
- 2018/21 Admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2019/2 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2019/9 United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2005/22 Action to promote effective crime prevention

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

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